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HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

COLLECTIONS AND RESEARCHES MADE BY THE Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society

VOL. XV

REPRINTED WITH NOTES BY JOSEPH GREUSEL AND A SKETCH OF GENERAL HENRY PROCTOR BY CLARENCE M. BURTON

LC

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PREFACE

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The collection of original documents as an aid to historical research, in which the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society is at present engaged, has in the present volume its ample justification.

The war of 1812 formed an interesting epoch in the history of the American continent; and while in a general sense the facts relative thereto are familiar to the general reader, now for the first time are brought together in print the official reports and correspondence of the British officers in command on the Canadian frontier and in Michigan; and in this volume can be found that portion of the British official story of the first two years of that war which forms a page in the annals of Michigan, together with such parts thereof relating to Upper Canada as was found inseparable therefrom.

But even to the unprofessional reader, these letters and reports cannot fail to have a lively interest, as showing the inner causes which tended to the final result; and here, too, the story of Gen. Hull's surrender of Detroit finds further illustration, and the judgment that at best Gen. Hull was a weak man unfitted to the rank he had attained. The importance of the island of Mackinac, as a strategic point, is also shown in a most vivid manner, while the methods of the British in dealing with and cajoling the Indians into their support find ample illustration.

A succeeding volume will contain papers of similar interest, bringing the story down to the final evacuation, by the British, of Michigan soil.

The committee deem themselves fortunate in having been able to secure from the Archive office at Ottawa, Ontario, those copies of the original documents which are there guarded with the most jealous care, and that they are here brought together in a form convenient for distribution, study and preservation.

MICHAEL SHOEMAKER, *Chairman*

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HARRIET A. TENNEY, *Secretary*

JOHN H. FOSTER

A. D. P. VAN BUREN *Committee of Historians*

Lansing, Mich ., June 25, 1890 b

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

The first edition having been exhausted it became necessary to reprint volume XV, and accordingly it is herewith presented. There is no change in page or text, the letters appearing here as they were faithfully transcribed from the archives of the Dominion government at Ottawa—verbatim, literatim et punctuatim. The text has been illustrated by historical, biographical and explanatory notes, by Joseph Greusel. For the most part these notes will be found in the appendix, but where it could be done without affecting the original paging of the volume they appear as footnotes. An interesting addition to the volume is a sketch of General Henry Proctor by the President of the Society—Hon. Clarence M. Burton. Material assistance in the preparation of some of the notes has been rendered by Hon. Charles W. Casgrain of Detroit, great-grandson of James Baby, 1763–1833, who kindly furnished the records of the Casgrain, Baby and Perrault families; also by the privileges accorded by the Windsor Public Library which is unusually well supplied with works relating to the history of Canada.

A new and more perfect index by Mrs. Marie B. Ferrey, increases the value of this official transcript of events of the war of 1812 as recounted by the chief actors therein in letters and reports made day by day. The volume in consequence contains the substantial frame work of the militiary history of the period it covers.

Detroit, October, 1909.

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BIOGRAPHY OF GEN. HENRY PROCTER C. M. BURTON

It is somewhat singular that so little can be found in printed volumes relating to the life and family connections of Henry Procter. His name is connected with the history of the territory of Michigan, which included the present state, the northern parts of Ohio, Indiana, and

Illinois and a portion of the state of Wisconsin, by reason of his being the military and civil governor, under British rule, during a period of the war of 1812.

It is said that he was of Welsh descent. He resided, at one time, in Douglas in the Isle of Man and he may have been a native of that Island.

In one of his letters he says he entered the army in 1781 and the military records show that he was an ensign in the 43d regiment on the fifth of April in that year. The records of the War Office, in London, contain the further information that he was lieutenant, December twentieth, 1781, captain, November thirtieth, 1792; major, May thirteenth, 1795; brevet lieutenant colonel, June first, 1800. During this time he was connected with the 43d regiment. He became lieutenant colonel in the 41st regiment of foot on October ninth, 1800; brevet colonel, July twenty-fifth, 1810, and received his final promotion to major general, June fourth, 1813.1

1 His name was gazetted as brigadier general February 8, 1813.— *Doc. His. Can*. part 5, page 60.

He was in command of Fort George, on the Niagara River, in 1807 with the 41st regiment, or a portion of it, and continued to reside at that place until preparations for war were made at Fort Malden (Amherstburg) when he was sent to that place.2

2 His brother, Lieut. William Procter, married Joan Crooks, at Niagara, December 11, 1807.— *Ont. His. Soc*., Vol. III, p. 58.

A short time after was declared between the United States and Great Britain in 1812, General William Hull, civil governor of Michigan Territory, arrived in Detroit with a small army of regulars and Ohio militia. He soon invaded Canada and occupied a position at Sandwich opposite the village of Detroit.

Here he issued a bombastic proclamation inviting the Canadians to desert their country and join the Americans. At this time Procter was secure in viii Fort Malden, some twenty miles down the river, but he had not troops enough to undertake to resist the invasion.

Hull feared to attack Fort Malden. His troops were largely the militia from Ohio and Michigan and they complained that they were not employed to invade foreign territory or to leave the United States, and threatened to return to Detroit. Fearing a defection in his army, Hull only remained a few days on Canadian soil and then withdrew to the Fort at Detroit. His troops other than foraging parties had at no time been more than five or six miles from that place.

General Isaac Brock (afterwards Sir Isaac Brock) was with the parliament of Upper Canada when Hull's invasion took place. The day that parliament was prorogued he hastened to Fort Malden with a few reinforcements, and assumed command. Hastily collecting his troops and the assembled Indians, he started to attack Hull and was soon at Sandwich. He erected two or three small batteries and began to bombard the city and Fort.

On the day he appeared at Sandwich, August 15, 1812, he sent to Hull a demand to surrender. Early the same day Hull had dispatched a considerable portion of his troops down the Detroit River, on the American side to escort a train of supplies coming from Ohio.

This detachment was under charge of Colonels Duncan McArthur and Lewis Cass, two of the best officers in the small army. Hull's remaining troops were, as he thought, much inferior to Brock's army. No matter whether he was right or wrong, when Brock demanded a surrender and threatened to turn his Indians loose on the inhabitants of the village if his demand was not complied with, Hull was badly frightened. His first reply was to the effect that he was prepared to meet any force that might be sent against him, but after a night of mediation, and apparently without consulting his officers, early in the morning of

August sixteenth, he requested Brock to delay offensive operation in order to treat of a capitulation.3

3 Many of these papers are printed in the *Historical Register*, Vol. 2, part 2. Hull's Proclamation is on page 31. Brock's demand is on page 50, and Hull's reply is on the same page, as are also the Articles of Capitulation. Hull's two letters offering to surrender are reproduced in facsimile in *History and Biography of Detroit* (1909) on pages 70 and 72.

At noon on August sixteenth, 1812, General Brock took possession of Detroit by capitulation, and with Detroit there was surrendered to the British Arms, the entire Michigan Territory. Brock only remained in Detroit one day to arrange matters for Henry Procter who was at once installed as military commandant. The militia were disarmed and ordered to return to their homes, while the regulars and officers were sent to Montreal as prisoners of war.

From August seventeenth, 1812, till September twenty-fourth in the following year Procter retained the position as military and civil governor of Michigan Territory. During that time there were several small engagements in which Procter's troops and the Indians with them were engaged, and there were three events of more importance. In the Massacre at Frenchtown, on the River Raisin, the Massacre of the garrison, women and children at Fort Dearborn (Chicago) and in the battle on the Maumee, the troops of Procter or the Indians under his control, were present.

Nearly a century has passed since these events took place and the blood of a great nation has had time to cool, but even now the maledictions of an entire people continue to fall upon the head of Procter who consented to these infamous massacres. It is useless to say that the work was carried on against his consent and without his knowledge. He employed the Indians, well knowing what they would do, if they once gained control, and he is the one on whom all the blame and all the shame should fall for the terrible

massacre Chicago and at Frenchtown. Brock in his letter to Hull dated August fifteenth, 1812, says “It is far from my intention to join in a war of extermination, but you must be aware that the numerous body of Indians who have attached themselves to my troops, will be beyond control the moment the contest commences. Procter knew that he could not control the Indians if they once were turned loose and became victorious, and nothing can excuse him for employing them. This censure—worse than censure, condemnation—of Proctor's actions was proclaimed at the time and by those who were personally cognizant of the acts complained of. It has not needed a century to discover his crimes. Look at the letters written and published by Judge Woodward in 1813, and the letter of William Henry Harrison to Major General Vincent, of November 3d, 1813.4

4 Page 436 *post*. Some of Judge Woodward's letters are in *Niles Register*, Vol. IV, page 91 *et seq*., and others are in this volume, *post*.

Proctor undertook to establish civil law in Michigan and directed the former officers to continue until further arrangements were made. He was not successful in establishing courts or in maintaining those already established by the Territorial Government and Michigan continued during the British occupancy virtually without courts. The reader who is desirous of ascertaining how the country was managed during this time can find abundance of information in the papers already published by this society, particularly those ni volumes XV and XXXVI. Finding that the people were not contented and were likely to cause trouble, Procter suspended all civil and criminal laws in force and proclaimed Martial Law on the fourth day of February, 1813.5

5 This proclamation is printed in Vol. VIII, page 642, and in Vol. XXXVI, page 293. *Doc. Hist. of Canada (War of 1812*) Part 5, page 427.

x

A few days before the promulgation of Martial Law, Procter ordered nearly all of the American citizens who still remained at Detroit, to leave the place without unnecessary

delay. The declaration of Martial Law immediately followed and many of the citizens were forced to leave. Judge Woodward, who had been the chief protection to the American citizens at Detroit until this time, left the place after asserting that he had done everything possible in his power to assist his countrymen.

Matters of serious importance were of daily occurrence during the remainder of Procter's stay in Detroit as can be readily be seen by the letters and documents above referred to, but he could not gain the confidence of the people subject to his government. He could not control the Indians and they committed all sorts of depredations, such as house burning, destruction of property and sometimes murdering the people living on farms outside of the village enclosure.

The battle of Lake Erie was fought on September tenth, 1813. The British forces in the west had counted on a sure victory and every hope they had for maintaining their western possessions was chanced upon the outcome. The entire British fleet was destroyed.
The news no sooner reached Procter than he began hastily to prepare to retreat. He destroyed the public buildings and military stores in Fort Malden and withdrew his troops to Detroit and Sandwich. He burned the public buildings (those within the fort) at Detroit and evacuated the place and commenced his retreat on the twenty-fourth day of September.6

6 The following is the official account issued at Montreal, October 13, 1813:

“Major General Procter having sustained, by the unfortunate capture of the squadron on Lake Erie, the loss of a considerable portion of his military force, which was serving on board that fleet, as well as the principal heavy ordnance necessary for the defence of his military possessions—commenced his retreat from the fort at Sandwich on the twenty-fourth of September, having previously dismantled the posts of Amherstburg and Detroit, and burned and destroyed every public building and stores of every description.” *Niles Reg*., V. 173.

General William Henry Harrison followed him as promptly as circumstances would permit. The Battle of the Thames—the rout of Procter—the destruction and capture of his army—the death of his chief Indian ally, Tecumseh and his own escape are told elsewhere in many publications and need not be here repeated.7

7 See " *The Battle of the Thames*," one of the best works on the subject, by Col. Bennett H. Young, being *Filson Club Publication* No. 18. See letter in *Niles Reg*., V. 174. Harrison's proclamation, same book, page 173.

Procter keenly felt the disgrace of his defeat and the cause of it soon became a matter of importance between himself and Sir George Prevost. He accused Prevost of not properly supporting him, either with men or provisions. There are many evidences to support these accusations—letters of xi Prevost on this subject, both to Procter and to his government. Procter demanded a military investigation. This was at first denied him, but was afterward conceded, and a court martial was actually ordered May twenty-first, 1814, but obstructions were placed in the way of its action so that nothing was done for some time.8 Procter became so exasperated at the want of action that he sought to place his side of the controversy before the people by means of a series of articles in The Montreal Herald.9

8 The Court Martial was at first denied Procter and he asked to be relieved of his command January fourteenth, 1814. See this volume, page 470. See also on the same subject pages 471, 562 and 576.

9 These articles were subsequently reprinted in a small pamphlet, a copy of which is in the British Museum. The pamphlet is entitled "The Letters of Veritas Republished."

Charges were finally formulated against him and were printed in the Quebec Mercury. There were five charges in all, as follows:

1st. That he did not abandon Detroit and retreat as soon as he should. He began his retreat in the evening of September twenty-seventh, although he was aware of the Barclay's defeat on Lake Erie on the day of the battle, September tenth.

2nd. He did not carry on his retreat expeditiously and did not destroy the bridges he passed over; thus allowing the American to overtake him.

3d. Allowed property to fall into the hands of the enemy that he should have carried off or destroyed.

4th. That he did not fortify Chatham in order to resist the enemy at that point.

5th. That he did not properly arrange his troops at the battle at Moravian town, October fifth, but “quitted the field soon after the action commenced; such conduct on the part of the said Major General Procter betraying great professional incapacity, tending to the defeat and dishonor of His Majesty's arms, to the sacrifice of the division of the army committed to his charge, being in violation of his duty, unbecoming and disgraceful to his character as an officer, prejudical to good order and military discipline, and contrary to the articles of war.”10

10 These charges first appear in the *Quebec Mercury* and are reprinted in the *Niles Register* of January twenty-first, 1815. See also *Mich. Pion. & His. Soc*., Vol. XVI, p. 179.

The finding of the Court, the report of which is dated July twenty-sixth, 1815, was partly in favor and partly against the accused. The closing of the verdict is as follows: “Upon the whole the court is of opinion that the prisoner, Major General Procter, has in many instances during the retreat, and the disposition of the force under his command, been erroneous in judgment and in some deficient in those energetic and active exertions which the extraordinary difficulties of his situation so particularly required.”11

11 *Mich. Pion. & His. Soc*., Vol. XVI, p. 181.

The sentence of the Court was that he should be publicly reprimanded and suspended from rank and pay for six months. The Prince Regent acquiesced in the sentence so far as the public reprimand, only.12

12 *The Talbot Regime*, 65. See also *Ten Years in Upper Canada*, p. 234. George IV was very severe upon the unfortunate Procter, and censured the court for mistaken lenity. He expressed his regret that any officer of the length of service, and the exalted rank of General Procter should be so extremely wanting in professional knowledge, and deficient in those energetic qualities which must be required of every officer.

The events of the remainder of his life are rather uncertain at the present time. He retained his position in the army and returned to England. Whether he was actively engaged in military affairs is uncertain. He never recovered from the censure of the Court Martial and spent his days in attempting to show that Prevost was the cause of his defeat.

He was taken sick and moved to Bath for treatment. Here he entered into a discussion of his old ground of complaint against Prevost and a long article on the subject was printed in the Quarterly Review of October, 1822.13

13 Page 419. In this article reference is made to the “Letters of Veritas Republished,” which hurt the feelings of Lieut. Gen. Prevost.

“Some account of the Public Life of the late Lieut. Gen. Sir George Prevost” was published in London in 1813.

Almost at the very instant that the article in the Quarterly Review was placed upon the market for sale, the life of General Proctor went out of sickness, at his home in Bath. He died October thirty-first, 1822.

Little is known of his family or descendants. In one of his letters he refers to his wife and daughter being present with him in Detroit in 1813, and there is a paper on file in the War Office in London showing that his wife's name was Elizabeth and that they had three daughters, Susannah Anne Procter, baptised in the Parish of Leominister, November 18, 1794, Frances Sarah Procter, born July fifteenth, 1803, in Canada and Augusta Margaret Firth Procter, born November nineteenth, 1808, in Canada. None of these children were married at the time of the death of their father.14 In every record the name is spelled Procter.

14 A son, Richard Campbell Procter, was baptized at Niagara, April 7, 1807.

MICHIGAN PIONEER AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

COPIES OF PAPERS ON FILE IN THE DOMINION ARCHIVES AT OTTAWA, CANADA, PERTAINING TO THE RELATIONS OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES DURING THE PERIOD OF THE WAR OF 1812

Note —Care has been taken in publishing the following papers to follow the original copies as closely as possible, including orthography, punctuation, capitalization, etc. The references in brackets at the close of each paper are to the filings in the Dominion archives at Ottawa

RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND EVENTS PRELIMINARY TO WAR

MAJOR LITTLEHALES TO MR. LE MAISTRE

(*Relations with United States*)

York ,1 October 21st 1793

1 Toronto; early name of York changed, 1834. Established as capital of Upper Canada, 1794. Taken by Americans, 1813, but was held four days only.

Sir ,

Enclosed is an account of expenses incurred by Captain Bunbury of the 5th Regiment, and Lieut. Givens of the Queens Rangers in attending the Commissioners of the United States to the Westward.

2

His Excellency Colonel Simcoe,1 long since informed General Clarke, that he had thought proper to direct the above mentioned gentlemen, to accompany the Commissioners to Sandusky, upon their application to him for some of the Kings Officers to go with them. He therefore hopes His Excellency The Major General will be pleased to sanction the payment of this account.

1 See appendix.

I am sir Your very obedient and Most humble Servant E. B. Littlehales .

F. Le Maistre Esqr &c

[C 673-p 17.]

Enclosed Account

Government Dr. to Captain Bunbury and Lieut. Givens for Sundry Expenses incurred in attending the Commissioners of the United States from Niagara to the Detroit River from the 26th of June to the 23d of August 1793.

£ s. d. To Cash paid for Provisions on board Ship for Captain Bunbury and Lieut Givens from Niagara to Detroit River and back again 12 12 0 To Cash paid for two Servants for Ditto 6 6 0 To Cash paid for Provisions on board Ship for Captain Bunbury and Lt Givens

from Niagara to York and back again 3 3 0 To Cash paid an Express from Captain Elliotts to Detroit the 16th of August 1793 1 1 0 Sterling £23 2 0

Joseph Bunbury Capt 5th Regt

Jas Givens Lt Q. R.

Approved J. G. S.

[C 673-p 18.]

FROM CAPTAIN SMITH—UNADDRESSED

(*Relations with United States*)

James Kenny native of Ireland private in the 1st Sub Legion of the American Army commanded by Genrl Wayne deserted from Fort Defiance 4 days ago and was conducted into this Camp by the Ottawas; informs that the convoy with provisions had not arrived at the Glaize nor expected by land as was mentioned, But that a Boat with Whiskey had come from the 3 Miamis Village and so soon as the water is high enough, the provisions for Fort Defiance will be furnished from thence & that Boats for that purpose of the same construction as those of Kentucky are now actually upon the Stocks at the Miamis Village—The Garrison of Fort Defiance consists of 130 Invalids most of them Wounded in the last engagement—12 men on guard,—4 centries—3 Reliefs and one night only in Bed.—A Guard of 8 men and a Serj't are sent out daily to watch the Cattle which at present are reduced to 13—No Rifle men fit for duty and only 30 days provision in the Fort.

It was expected that Wayne would this Autumn make another Sally upon the Indians but the informant rather thinks that he is gone to Winter quarters at Greenville.—That it is expected in the Course of Next Summer, Fort Miamis and Detroit will be given up to them.

Many deserters have an inclination to come in but a man being killed lately at the Glaize, together with an advertisement in the Washington Gazette that Govrs L—we gave a

Guinea for every Scalp deterred them from desertion,—That peace with the Indians is much desired in order to draw the Fur trade from Detroit.

The informant did not hear of Wells coming out with a party, nor of any cannon intended for Fort Defiance more than what it had, which is 4—one pounders—one in each blockhouse.

That they were fortifying the harbours along the Coast & repairing the old Forts—that a War with Britain was not expected, but much wished for at this present time in her present troubles with the French.—Harmers1 track is now the road from Greenville to the Miamis Towns—Fort Defiance has no Bombproofs, nor tenable against cannon—that, at the Miamis Village he does not know of what materials it is made nor its construction.

1 See appendix.

That a Frenchman, Brother to him who was taken Prisoner said that the Trade of Detroit is very dull since the Battle & many of the French moving off to Lower Canada.

Sign'd, Thos Smith Capt Mala2

2 Meaning captain of militia.

Swan Creek 28th Octr 1794

A true Copy Sign'd, M. Elliott A. A.

Montreal 7th Decr 1794.

A true Copy Joseph Chene S. I. A.

[C 673-p 38.]

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MAJOR LITTLEHALES TO SECRETARY GREEN

(*Relations with United States*)

Navy Hall Niagara September 4th 1795.

Sir , I have the honor to subjoin an Extract of a letter to me from Colonel England of the 23d Ultimo, and to transmit a copy of the inclosure to which it refers.

“I also send for the information of His Excellency a copy of an Extract “of a letter which I received late last night from Major Strelle Commanding “at Fort Miamis, and from every account that reaches me General “Wayne proposes immediately to erect Forts at the Mouth of the Miamis “River, Sandusky and the River Raisins. I should wish to be instructed if I “am to take any measures to prevent him, Those places being evidently “within the precincts of the British Posts on the Miamis and here.”

I am Sir Your Most obedient humble Servant E. B. Littlehales

M. B. (Major of brigade.)

Captain Green1 M. S. (Military Secretary.)

1 Major James Green, 26th Regiment, military secretary to the commanding general at Quebec.

[C 673-p 48.]

Enclosed Extract

Extract of a letter from Major Strelle to Colonel England dated Fort Miamis August 20th 1795—

“You will receive this from a Mr. Godfroy, who has just arrived from Greenville, which place he left seven days ago, he brings the same reports respecting the intentions of General Wayne to advance and build a Fort at Sandusky and another at the mouth of this River, that the day he left Greenville, orders were given out for the Troops to hold themselves in readiness to move at a moments notice, and that the Treaty with Great Britain had given general discontent thro' the Country, he says he heard from different officers that two English Frigates had been burnt in some of the American Harbours, but in which he does not recollect. From his account the Indians are not by any means satisfied with the Treaty, the Americans having kept from them the most valuable part of their country, the little Turtle,2 as he says, was with difficulty prevailed upon to sign the Treaty, and

2 See appendix.

5 that when General Wayne1 told him he had better do it, as all the other Nations had done so, he answered that since he was forced to it he would, but that there was little use in putting his hand to a Treaty, which his heart could not approve of.—Great Quantities of provision and ammunition arrive daily at Greenville, some heavy pieces of Cannon have also arrived, and part of them it is said with a quantity of ammunition have been forwarded to Fort Wayne.

1 Gen. Anthony Wayne, famed in the Revolutionary war, sent by Washington to subdue the Indians in the territory northwest of the Ohio, completed that work at the battle of Fallen Timbers, Maumee Rapids not far from Toledo, 1794. Made treaty of peace, 1795, at Greenville.

All reports say that a Fort is certainly to be built immediately at Sandusky and another at the entrance of this River, whatever General Wayne may do at Sandusky, I can hardly think he will send any party below the Glaize.”

A true copy from a copy

E. B. L.

[C 673-p 45.]

FROM COL. ENGLAND—UNADDRESSED

(*Relations with United States*)

Copy .

The Information of Charles Tillier a Canadian lately returned from the Posts occupied by the army of the United States under the Command of General Wayne.

Detroit October 20th 1795

The Informant says, that he has been for some time at Greenville that General Wayne with Two Thousand Men, exclusive of two hundred and fifty Light Horse, marched from thence thirty three days ago, to a Carrying place on the Main Fork of the Glaize River, commonly called Lorimers Encampment, where he was, when he left him, employed in building a Fort, which when finished, promised to be about the same size as Fort Defiance, and that when the Fort was completed, he proposed to cut a road to Sandusky, where he was to build another Fort— *And he heard* from some of the officers, that he would build a Fort this fall at Point aux Chenes, provided *Perrogues* with Merchandize and Stores were prevented from passing the British post on the Miamis—

He further says that General Wayne did not move with any cannon but that there were six Brass Six Pounders sent to Fort Wayne previous to his move, and that he had a great Quantity of Provisions with him, and that there were several large Flats and Batteaux built on Rocky River, and provisions constantly sent to the Fort Building in Lorimers Encampment, where he understood there was to be a considerable Depot—He also

says 6 that the general conversation among the Troops was that they were to be in this Neighbourhood early in the spring.

(Signed) R. England 1 Col. Commg. E. B. L.

1 See appendix.

[C 673-p 50.]

MAJOR LITTLEHALES TO SECRETARY GREEN.

(*Relations with United States*)

Navy Hall October 29th 1795

Sir , His Excellency Colonel Simcoe commands me to transmit to you a copy of a letter of the 21st of this month from Colonel England with a copy of its enclosure—

And, He desires Me to remark It will be satisfactory to know if It is the Commander in Chiefs pleasure that Colonel England should be authorized to incur an expence for any Express he may think necessary, during the Winter—

I am Sir, Your most obedient and very humble servant E. B. Littlehales M. B.

Captain Green Military Secretary

[C 673-p 53.]

FROM COL. ENGLAND—UNADDRESSED

(*Relations with United States*)

The following intelligence was brought Mr. McKenzie by Blackbeard a Chief of the Shawanoes, who was told it by Judge Symes on the Big Miamis.

“That in December an Army of Eight thousand men, was sent to attack “a Spanish Fort on the Ohio, and two Indians a Shawanoes and a Wyandot “accompanied them.

“That an Indian acquainted the Commandant at Greenville that he was “wrong to send off so many men, for that a Warrior at his back, was ready 7 “to attack him with a very strong Army meaning the Chippawas. That on “this Indians Information he sent a Courier after them to desire them to “return early in the Spring.

“That two Officers were to go on the Recruiting Service, past the Blue “Licks, and over the Mountains and to descend the Cankaway (Kanawha) “with what Troops they can raise and to remain at Kayuaga till those expected “to be enlisted by another Officer who goes to the Falls of the Ohio and “returns from thence to Fort Washington can join them there, and then to “proceed to Detroit about the end of May. That if they did not get there “before that time, and before the English could oppose them, they were a lost “people, but that if they could be there at that time they had all the “Country.

“That they were afraid the English would raise the Indians against them “and that therefore they wished to be on a good footing with them till they “got those Posts.”

Swan Creek 9th March 1796

E. B. L.

(a copy) *signed* R. England Col. Commg.

[C 673-p 54.]

MAJOR LITTLEHALES TO SECRETARY GREEN

(*Relations with United States*)

York July 4, 1796

Sir , The enclosed Correspondence between Colonel England and Brigadier General Wilkinson1 of the United States, is transmitted to you by desire of Major General Simcoe, for the information of the Commander in Chief.

1 See appendix.

I am Sir Your most obedient and Most humble Servant E. B. Littlehales M. B.

Captain Green Military Secretary.

[C 673-p 62.]

8

MR. SCHOEDDE TO SECRETARY GREEN

(*Relations with United States*)

Montreal 25th February 1799

Dear Sir The last Burlington brought nothing new; But a paper of the 12th from New York, and which was in Doctor Jones possession but lost by him, gives an account of a Vessel from Lisbon, of 12th December and that Malta and Minorca were both taken, the first I can easily believe, but the latter can hardly have been taken in so short a time and with such a hand full of Men, as General Stewart commanded—.

There is a french man at Albany whom you know better than I do, named Lacouturé; he is an agent of the Directorys and said lately when drunk, that he had eight people employed in Canada as emissaries—this I am certain you know, but what makes me give

you this information is that he is just setting off from Albany, for Niagara, and from thence to Detroit; this perhaps you do not know, and as he may perhaps think it not unsafe to cross the limits there, the Rascal might be secured, if a description of him was to go up. Excuse this liberty & I remain Dear Major

Yours sincerely T. H. Schoedde .

†Contealx Major Green 26th Rgt

[C 673-p 75]

EXTRACT OF A STATEMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF UPPER CANADA SENT WITH THE APPROBATION OF LIEUT. GENERAL HUNTER1 TO FIELD MARSHAL HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF KENT2 COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF BRITISH N. AMERICA, IN THE YEAR 1800

1 Lieut. Gen. Martin Hunter, commanding British forces in Canada under the Duke of York.

2 Prince Edward Augustus, Duke of Kent, 1767–1820. Fourth son of George III of England; father of Queen Victoria.

The Government of the united States not having fulfilled some Articles of the treaty of Peace, which established their independance, 'twas thought proper by the british Government to retain the Military Posts of Oswego Niagara Detroit & Michillimakinac which had been injudiciously ceded by Oswald the british Commissioner, a man of little political, and less local knowledge, if Men's talents may be estimated by their Measures. The Indians who had loudly and Justly complained of a treaty in which they were sacrificed by a cession of their country contrary to repeated Promises, were with difficulty appeased, however, finding the Posts retained and some Assurances given they ceased to murmur and resolved to defend their country extending from the Ohio Northward to the Great Lakes, and westward to the Mississippi, an immense tract, in which they found the deer,

9 the bear, the wild wolfe game of all sorts in profusion. They employed the Tomahawk and Scalping Knife against such deluded Settlers who on the faith of the treaty, to which they did not consent, ventured to cross the Ohio, secretly encouraged by the Agents of Government, supplied with Arms, Ammunition and provisions they maintained an obstinate & destructive War against the States, cut off two Corps sent against them, one under Sinclair1 and the other under Colonel Butler. The American Government discouraged by these disasters were desirous of peace of any terms, their deputies were sent to Detroit, they offered to confine their Pretensions within certain limits far South of the Lakes. if this offer had been accepted the Indian Country would have been for ages an impassable Barrier between us. twas unfortunately perhaps wantonly rejected, and the war continued.

1 See appendix.

About this time the destruction of Order and the confusion resulting from Anarchy seemed to threaten France with a total dissolution. The Indians were more openly encouraged: Lord Dorchester1 then Commander in Chief, delivered a speech in writing to some indian Chiefs, in which Assistance was promised, he was disavowed by ministry on the Changes which took place in Europe contrary to all Appearances.

Whilst the War continued between the Indians & the Long Knives, as they call the Americans, the writer was sent by Lord Dorchester, by General Simcoe's Request, to the Miamis Country, the Scene of Action, there to superintend the Christian Indians & a strong settlement of Canadians in the indian Country, twas expected at Head Quarters that Observations would be made as well on the disposition & views of the Inhabitants native Indians and others as on the Position of the several Posts, their strength or weakness, relative advantages or disadvantages. This expectation of Government was duly & faithfully complied with, the task was extremely difficult & in the existing circumstances unsafe a misunderstanding subsisting between the Commander in Chief & the Lieut Governor their Views were different. Lord Dorchester's Ideas were confined to the State of the Province as known to him by official communications. these communications

were made through interested Channels, & as all such are extremely defective, General Simcoe had seen the Country with his own Eyes, his measures were founded on his local Knowledge & commensurate to it. he saw distant Ruin in the loss of a Country which Lord Dorchester seemed to disregard, tho equally attentive to the Interests of the Empire at large, and equally intent on its Pursuit with such discordant Views twas not possible to agree on the means. Applause was directed by Interest. Men not measures were the objects of praise or censure. The unsuspecting temper of the one, duped by artifice under the Garb of loyalty which masks many a traitor & the unguarded 10 Candor of the other whose incautious expressions were more than once malignantly distorted, served to encrease the disunion. The Writer's Opinions were ingenuously offered, tho' well received they produced but little effect. from an Attentive View of the whole country its native & adventitious resources he thought (and time confirms his Opinion that Lord Dorchesters Plans) were laid on too small a Scale & General Simcoe's in some what impracticable. tis true the Expenditures proposed by that intelligent officer tho great in themselves, are trifling if compared to sums which flow thro' other channels less productive & he thought perhaps not rashly that they would eventually pay the Nation with Compound Interest.

The unexpected reverse in Europe induced Ministers to compromise with the Americans, Jay's1 treaty was concluded, a cessation of the Indian War promised, the Indians themselves now unsupported & dispirited by the defeat at the Miamis concluded a treaty with Waine. The cession of one of the finest Countrys on Earth, with Public works estimated at 300,000 £ Sterling, was the immediate result, the loss of the fur trade & of the Canadas will be the ultimate consequence, if strong Measures be not adopted and in due time.

1 See appendix.

All this Simcoe fore saw, & would have prevented if his Representations had been effectual, he would have given effective aid to the Indians & the American Army would have been cut to pieces, they would of course in their treaty with the Indians have confined

themselves to the limits proposed by their deputy. The indians were taught to believe by some traders hired for the purpose, that the british & americans had conspired their ruin, the evasive answers, & equivocal Conduct of the garrisons at Detroit & the Miamis countenanced the delusion, hence of 1200 Indians assembled under the Fort 900 retired without firing a Shot under the persuasion that the british fort would fire on them as soon as the Engagement commenced. the Christian Indians accompanied by a few Shawanese & Ottawas came into Action & were overpowered by Numbers. that unlucky Day brought the Americans on our Frontiers & put them in possession of a Chain of Posts commanding all the Lakes.

A friendly intercourse was established, or pretended, how long it may continue was not then nor is it yet within the reach of political calculation. the Jarring Materials of which the federal Union is composed, include more than one principle of dissolution; the Antifederalists are numerous & their Influence great; they feel their weight, and avoid it, the gallic Interest is deeply rooted and widely extended; that Horde of miscreants the united irishmen have their Partisans & Emisaries diffused all over the States, some of their most active leaders have been sent out by the british Government as 11 if to give System to their Measures, the Interests of the Northern & Southern States are incompatible, their Habits are different, their modes of living, their natural dispositions unlike, their Views are opposite, Tom Paine's rights of man & age of reason are gradually superceding the Bible, the Kentucky Banditti & Vermont Brigands are avowedly inimical to order; a Spirit of insubordination the infallible effect of irreligion in the lower classes of Society, pervades the whole Mass of the people, may not some one, or all these causes, which have been noticed acting severally or in conjunction with other causes which cannot with propriety be assigned, produce some change materially affecting us? A combination of discordant Elements in the political World always threatens & frequently produces a sudden explosion.

When, after some disasters on the Continent of Europe, the Northern Confederacy was formed, the government of the United States thinking the ruin of Great Britain unavoidable

& desirous of sharing the Spoils, directed Measures to be taken in the distant Posts in order to commence Operations, in consequence, General Hamilton then Governor of the N. W. district of the United States reinforced the garrison of Detroit with the troops which had been stationed at Michillimakinac & the Miamis, the garrison of Niagara was strengthened at the same time with troops drawn from Presqu Isle on Lake Erie & Oswego on Lake Ontario; he thus collected in two prominent points immediately on our frontiers, the whole of the American disposable force, he had also given orders to inspect the Narrows on the River Sinclair & to determine the most advantageous position for a fort to command the whole of that river, he intended to remove the garrison from Detroit, an ill chosen & unhealthy spot, to an eminence about two miles below it, which commands the whole of the River opposite to Sandwich.1 these two Positions well manned & appointed with a few Gun boats on the River Huron would have made him absolute master of the whole communication between Lake Erie & Lake Huron. the writer does not know if the last Measure was in Hamilton's contemplation, but the position is so advantageous, & the necessity so obvious, that he could hardly over look it; the mouth of the river, tho not within gun shot has a full view of the Bar on Lake Sinclair; between it & the Bar there's a long & very narrow channel, thro which all vessels must of necessity pass, to stem the current a fair & strong Breeze is necessary & then as the first reach of the river is in a different direction to the channel, it seldom happens, that the wind, which wafts a vessel over the Bar, will stem the first, or fidler's reach, as tis called, from its sinuosity, of course the Vessel comes to an Anchor, or runs aground, which frequently happens. on the Bar there are but six feet of water, a vessel drawing more must take a lighter in Company.

1 See appendix.

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The communication thus secured, in the Event of a Rupture will give the United States the undisturbed possession of the Upper Lakes & the whole of our fur trade, an object to which they have hitherto looked with anxious hope, and now with almost unerring certainty.

it may be said that we have yet a post at St. Joseph1 & a communication open through the Grand or Ottawa River, but tis manifest that troops, provisions and war like stores cannot be conveyed in bark canoes against a rapid river forming a number of Cataracts, at every one of which, not only the Packages, but the canoes must be transported, on men's shoulders a certain distance thro almost impassable woods before they can again venture on the river; other, therefore, and more effectual means must be devised & assumed the situation of St Joseph, is convenient merely as a resting place or place of shelter for the Merchants to deposit their stores their furs & Canoes occasionally; it may also be considered as a Place of Arms whence an Expedition up Lake Michigan against the adjacent Settlements, on thro the Bay & over the intermediate plain against the Settlements on the Mississippi, if well conducted may be successful; the most trifling neglect in any such Expedition must prove fatal from the nature of the Country thro which it is to pass, & treacherous disposition of the many wandering tribes which inhabit it, in whatever light the Post may be considered tis most injudiciously placed: a neighboring hill commands the fort, the Harbour if an extensive Bay deserves the name, inconvenient, if not unsafe, a Vessel coming in with a hard gale & heavy swell must come to at a distance & ride out the Gale with both Anchors at her Head; if she comes in with a light wind to get under cover of a Wharf, which stretches out in a right line & turns at right angles, she must throw out an Anchor & be warped in with a hawse or her cable, tis true the Anchorage is good, but a heavy swell beats against the Shore and when moor'd safety depends on the power of Resistance in the wharf.

1 See appendix.

the entrance of the River which joins Lake Huron to Lake Superior nine miles below St. Joseph, is commanded by an iminence on the American Side, tis impossible it should escape notice in the event of a Rupture it should be instantly seized, or such measures adopted as may prevent an Enemy from occupying it. the Falls of St Mary at the opening of Lake Superior are about 40 miles distant from St. Joseph, the ship channel leading to

the falls about three miles distant from the fort it can therefore afford no protection to the Merchants Stores, Works or Shipping at and above the falls if it be not sufficiently manned to afford a Detachment to cover them.

With respect to the Navigation of the Lakes the late cession has given the united States incalculable advantages. the whole of Lake Michigan is in 13 their territory, the adjacent soil is good, the country beautiful beyond description, the climate mild & and healthy; Rivers on which Vessels of any Burthen may be fitted out, the Bay of Saginaw in itself a sort of Lake has nearly the same advantages; Presquisle Middle Island, Thunder Bay Islands, the only places of shelter in a gale on Lake Huron are immediately on their Coast, the river Huron coming from the South on Lake Sinclair has four feet water on the Bar a sufficient depth for Gun boats or tow Galleys which may lie in safety at any place from the River's mouth ten or twelve miles up the Country in the midst of a strong Settlement; on the River Rouge between Detroit & Lake Erie, Vessels of any size may lie, and large Vessels are incessantly fitting out; near the extremity of pointe nouillie on Lake Erie another River Huron affords shelter to small Armed Vessels of any description. this last mentioned river opens in the Lake opposite the Bar point, nine miles below Fort Amherstburg, has a full view of all vessels going to or coming from that Post; may at any time interrupt the communication; they have besides these the River Raisin and Sandousky convenient Harbours for small craft, the Miamis Bay & Presquisle fit to receive large Vessels; on Lake Ontario they have many Rivers & Creeks the only Harbours of Nature are Oswego & Niagara; the latter they possess in common with us with the advantage of commanding the entrance to the River. here a Superiority remains at our option by erecting a strong work on Mississaga point.

to counteract these natural advantages, which have been enumerated, and others, which upon a close investigation, will be found to exist. recourse must be had to Art & some Expense on our Part. The Northern Coast of Lake Erie affords us but one indifferent Harbour the mouth of the grand River 40 miles distant from fort Erie, Lake Huron not even one as yet Known to the writer. the Earl of Selkirk1 informed him, that one had been lately

discovered, but as that nobleman was not himself on Lake Huron & took his information from public Report, he could not describe the situation. from this first view it follows that a decided Superiority in the Naval Department must be supported in the posts already established. any project to diminish that department under whatever pretence it may be conceived, or proposed is impolitic in the highest degree, & ought to be considered as the effect of ignorance or Malevolence. If abuses exist let them be reformed, if an officer be inattentive or incapable let him be dismissed, but let the establishment subsist & be rather encreased than diminished.

1 See appendix.

Effectual measures to secure the Communication between Lake Erie & Lake Huron are of indispensable Necessity. the Position of Amherstburg is ill chosen. it secures for us tis true a passage into the River for large vessels; but it cannot prevent vessels of a moderate size from passing between 14 Grosse Isle and the mainland: it cannot molest the vessels, which are built & armed on the River Rouge within a few miles of Detroit, it can lay that Post under no sort of Restraint; it can afford no sort of Protection to our vessels1 sailing against the current to Lake Huron 92 miles distant from it. the Block House & Battery on the Island of Bois. Blanc is ridiculous in the extreme: a landing may be effected on different parts of that island without molestation. an intelligent Enemy may without loss or danger turn the Battery against ourselves. this and other measures seem to have been adopted thro the representations of men, who under Colour of public Advice were invariably pursuing private Views. the Eminence at the Huron point eighteen miles above Amherstburg is decidedly the most eligible situation it commands the Ship Channel, interrupts the whole of the communication with Detroit, would have induced the inhabitants of the town amongst whom are many good subjects, to cross the River, would give protection to our merchants, who, thro some unaccountable law in Gen Prescot's Administration, being excluded the Post of Amherstburg & desirous of engrossing the trade of the Settlement built their Houses at Sandwich near this point almost within gun

shot of the intended American Fort, at a future day these Merchants must change sides, or be the Victims of the Genl. Precipitation and their own folly.

1 See appendix.

the Situation of Amherstburg is injudicious the Works badly disposed; the north Blockhouse is a full mile distant from the South; they can give no mutual Assistance; the Store houses are interspersed in the intermediate space on the Bank of the River, the vessels moored under them; in the rear of the small fort a ravine winds thro the wood within 100 years of it, at a small distance to the right, an eminence, on which Lieut Colonel Caldwell's House is built overlooks it; opposite on the other side of the River and in front of the whole is the Island of Bois Blanc covered with wood, accessible in every part to an Enemy, and within range of Musquet Shot of the Stores and Shipping. to occupy that Island will multiply points of Defence and render an effective force ineffective by weakening the main Body, and exposing them to be cut off in Detail. there's a small Fort it is true, the ditch not fraized, neither deep nor wide, with a correspondent Rampart faced with sods. A letter in date the 18th of February ult. says that some militia men do duty there from that circumstance and others, the writer suspects the Regulars have been withdrawn from Upper Canada and is lead to believe that these Posts on which, in his Opinion, the Salvation of the Canadas depends, are abandoned as defenceless or useless or the defence committed solely to the Settlers and Indians a measure highly impolitic; the Indians will fight if he be certain of support, the Settlers may with, but without 15 military aid, he most certainly will not; and if the Commander in Chief be taught to believe the contrary he's deceived. before the Cession of the Western territory a Regiment was always stationed at Detroit, another at Niagara, with a proportionate Corps of Artillery. why a force thought necessary when the Enemy was at a vast distance and weak should be diminished when he's in strength on our Frontiers, the writer is at a loss to conjecture.

If it be in contemplation to entrust the defence of Upper Canada to the Indians and Militia alone, the measure is impolitic to say no more, if the province be thought indefensible,

and abandoned, it is a fatal error, which will terminate in the loss of Lower Canada also. the instant we lose the Upper Province Montreal that wealthy town, is ruined, or changes Sides. The writer suspects that the merchants, however loyal they may appear will follow the channel thro' which their wealth must flow.

If the defence of the province be intended, and why it should be abandoned is inconceivable, the River Trench or Thames as 'tis now called, is an object of serious attention; it opens into Lake Sinclair1 . is well adapted for fitting out small armed vessels of any description. from the shallowness of the Waters in that Lake and the rapidity of the current in the River Sinclair the row Galley is indisputably the best. it does not 'tis true, command a view of the Bar, or of the Channel leading to it, as the River Huron2 on the American Side does but our superiority of Strength and Skill must compensate this natural disadvantage. the necessity of an Arsenal about twenty miles up the River, at a Point marked by Gen. Simcoe,appeared so pressing that this writer proposed it to Gen. Hunter, the necessity of the measure was admitted but the General declined it lest the American Government should take offence. the writer urged, but without effect, that precautionary measures within our own territory gave no just cause of offence.

1 River St. Clair and Lake St. Clair.

2 The Clinton river formerly called the Huron. Sometimes confounded with the Huron which empties into Lake Erie.

Another object equally interesting is the River Sinclair, that is the different Reaches of the River St. Lawrence between Lake Sinclair and Lake Huron. the River is narrow, the current strong, the shores on both sides mostly flat tho' there are some commanding situations, the Climate mild and healthy, and the soil extremely fertile; the shores gradually rise advancing to Lake Huron, immediately at the opening of the Lake there is a strong Rapid; a light wind however fair will not stem it, the deep water is on the British side; that position must be occupied, 'tis inconceivable how it has hitherto been neglected; there's but one

mode of accounting for it; the lands adjacent were not yet seized by certain characters thro' whom Representations 16 ought to have been made to Head Quarters as were the lands adjacent to that most injudicious position Amherstberg. A Commander in Chief is not a Sorcerer, if the Official Communications from men in confidential Situations do not contain an exact statement, of a Country which he never saw, 'tis impossible that he should be correct in his Choice.

As the River Thames is navigable for Boats from Lake Sinclair to within some twenty or thirty miles of lake Ontario and the whole course of the River far within our Territory by supporting a superiority on this Lake and occupying a Post at or very the Rapids, we shall be mastors of the whole communications. this Measure is of indispensable necessity for the Security of St Joseph,1 a Post of great trade and consequence as all the Merchants & Traders have come from Michilmakinac to settle there in order to avoid American taxes. The westerly winds are almost without intermission on the Lakes, a vessel may be a month at Amherstburg waiting for a wind, and another on her passage to St. Joseph; the average passage of the River is sixteen days, delays at the Rapids are incalculable, whereas row boats coming down the River Thames are independent of the winds; they may with ease and safety supply a Magazine at the foot of the Rapids from thence vessels of any Burthens may be washed up with the assistance of the Garrison and dispatches to St. Joseph; there are no shelves, if a vessel touches this she's got off without damage.

1 On St. Joseph island, St. Mary's river. The British garrison at Mackinac island removed to this post after evacuating Fort Mackinac, 1796.

The proposed Measure seems equally necessary for the support of Amherstburg 'tis of absolute necessity to render that Post useful in the hour of Danger. Fort Erie at the Entrance of that Lake, in its present state is not tenable, how far, by what means, and at what expence, a post, thro' which the Kings Troops, provisions and Military Stores must pass till a more certain Communication be opened, may be render'd respectable seems a matter of serious consideration, Whether a removal to the Mouth of the Grand River be

practicable? What the advantages or disadvantages of such a removal, is, at least, worth an Inquiry, supposing Fort Erie in the best possible State of Defence, and its Harbor as safe as 'tis at present, unsafe, the wind will at times, and the Americans may at all times, interrupt the communication with Amherstburg, from the immense advantages which they possess on Lake Erie, the only communication, therefore, which we can support, in defiance of their efforts is therefore the River Thames. of this truth Lieut Governor Simcoe was so well convinced, that he more than once declared to the writer in confidence, that he never would permit a Settlement to be made elsewhere till the Banks of the River were fully settled. on his Return to Europe the idea was draft. the Lands were seized by Land Jobbers, and some Governm t Officers, in whose hands they yet remain unsettled, whilst a 17 number of Settlers have been scattered in different directions, and distant Situations.

A Settlement on the River Sinclair is in every point of view a desirable measure, and attainable without Expence. in the year 1796 a tract of Land was purchased from the Gibawas (Ojibways) Indians beginning at the Chenal Ecarte' and running twelve miles northward along the Bank of the River, from thence to Lake Huron a distance of about twenty miles is yet unpurchased. Brandt1 attempted to obtain it from the Gibawas for himself and his Mohawks, but was refused. he's detested by that Nation. this the writer learned from Buffaloe one of their Chiefs. opposite the purchased Lands on the American side a settlement was forming in 1800 and rapidly increasing. the Settlers have but Indian titles, which are of no force in the United States, these precarious tenures give them no little uneasiness. a Mr Harron, (Harsen)2 formerly an officer on the Lakes, is the chief Settler, at the time of the Cession he declared himself a british Subject, and refused advantageous offers rather than relinquish his allegiance, his influence among the Settlers is great, and the writer is well assured that he wishes, and only waits; an Opportunity to cross the River, the neighbouring Settlers will to a man follow his Example if the least encouragement were given, the writer is confident that the whole River would immediately be settled by Subjects who are heartily tired of American freedom and taxes. who from the time of the Cession have remained thro' necessity, and wait with anxiety an Occasion to

extricate themselves. be that as it will, if the Americans be permitted to settle the Western Bank of the River and erect a Fort at their Option or at the Narrows according to Genl. Hamiltons plan. without any measures assumed on our part to counteract them. 'tis an insult on common sense to pretend that we may support an independant communication with Lake Huron; if on the contrary a settlement be made on our Side, industrious Settlers encouraged, excluding all Land Jobbers the pest of the Province, obliging the Settlers to reside and cultivate, a small Work constructed in the most convenient and commanding position at or near the foot of the rapids, the fort and Settlement will mutually support each other, and insure us a passage into the Lakes. this Settlement will be productive of other Advantages: 'twill encrease the number of our Subjects, diminish proportionately that of the Rival Country, enlarge our market, the great end of Colonization, and give us strength at an important Point, where weakness at a future day may prove fatal; a quantity of flour, Indian Corn &c may then be transported to St. Joseph, and tho' the whole consumption may not be supplied for a few years 3

1 See appendix

2 Probably meant for Alexander Harsen, from whom Harsen's island in the St. Clair flats is named, who settled there about 1783.

18 yet from the great fertility of the Soil and goodness of the climate a certain quantity most certainly would.

In 1800 the Post of St Joseph was in a very open and imperfect state, the Garrison weakly manned, more capable of inspiring contempt than of giving the cunning and observing Indian a high Sense of our Strength and respectability; it must not be forgotten that gratitude is not among the Indians Virtues, if he has any; fear restrains him and the desire of plunder allures him, if he has any other fixed principle of Action, it has escaped the writer's notice; he's of a restless disposition, unfixed in his friendships, and immoveable in his Emnity, he's a terrible and dangerous Enemy, always prowling like a wolf in pursuit of prey, must be employed, if not for us he will against us, to guard against an incursion

of the Western Indians, four Companies at least ought to be stationed in that Post, the Works kept in thoro' repair and no Indian, male or female, admitted within the Pickets, this wou'd undeceive the indians who accustomed to see a considerable Body of Troops, and Military parade in our distant Posts, and now finding but a handful of men scarcely sheltered by some broken Pickets, very naturally concludes that the Englishman is dead, as he is incessantly told by french and American Emissaries.

The Post of Niagara comes next under Consideration, the Fort in possession of the United States since the Cession was built by french Engineers, the position well chosen, it stands on a small point of Land, or little Peninsula, washed to the westward by the River St Lawrence at its entrance into Lake Ontario, to the Northward and Eastward by the still waters of the Lake; the Land gradually rises from the Edge of the River to a strong Stone building distant about 150 yards; which serves as a Barrack and is capable of defence, adjoining to it is another Stone Building in the Nature of a Block House, with some Cannon mounted on a strong Platform immediately under the Roof, which is supported by Cross Beams, the ends resting on the walls, keep the Roof at a convenient distance, so that the Cannon having no separate Embrazures, may be all brought to play on the same Point, having all the Advantage of a Battery en Barbet with the additional advantage of the men, who work there being kept under Cover. the whole surrounded by a strong Picketing contrived so as to give a cross fire in different Points tho' not strictly regular on the Neck by which 'tis Joined to the main land, is a work constructed by Governor Simcoe according to rule. there's a ditch armed, counter scarp, covered way and glacis, the Rampart is of earth, as is the whole work and faced with Sods. the opposite shore of the River is Within Point Blank shot of the fort, and a small elevation will reach the town of Niagara, the main Street of which is almost parallel with the River. about a mile up the River is the british fort, 'tis erected on an horizontal 19 Plain about 150 yards distant from the River from which to the fort there is an ascent but not difficult; the fort is of great extent regularly constructed, the planks and faces of the Bastions, on which Cannon are mounted, have ramparts faced with sods and ditches, the Curtains are picketed without Rampart or ditch there's a strong

Battery en barbet intended to cover the shipping which lie at the Wharf. within Musquet Shot of the American Shore. the great disadvantage of the situation is that Vessels coming up from the Lake must pass under the Guns of the American Fort, and when at the Wharf are exposed to destruction from the opposite Shore, a position at the Mississagua Point would have been exempt from danger, would command the Bar and Vessels would lie at their moorings in Safety in the Event of a Rupture the American fort must be forced. there but few, if any, American Settlers, within 100 miles of the fort, there's a post-Road and other Communications from Albany thro Schenectady and thence thro the unsettled Country to Niagara, on this Road they were advancing cannon to the fort, with the utmost diligence, and secrecy, when the news arrived that Admiral Nelson had destroyed the Danish Fleet,1 and crushed the Northern Confederacy. Some of the Cannon had arrived, the remaining were stopt on the way, all preparations suspended and unnoticed. it does not appear that the british Government were ever informed of the fact.

1 Battle of Copenhagen, April 2, 1801.

to the Eastward of Niagara on the Lake Ontario is the fort of Oswego on the mouth of that River distant about 90 Miles, a place of no force from it the americans come in open Boats to Niagara. to the Westward on the british side is York the Capitol of Upper Canada, distant 36 miles by water, 96 by land, 'tis an open town at the bottom of a deep bay, the Entrance of which may be defended by a work on the rising ground, where the barrack now stands, and another on Gibraltar Point, opposite to it; the town is capable of being strongly fortified, and make a post of great importance. A considerable Body of Men stationed there will ensure the safety of both provinces; from that post a Body of Troops may arrive at any Point in either province, in a few days, at Lake Sinclair above, down the River Thames, or at Montreal below, down the St. Lawrence: this is an advantage which York exclusively possesses. 'twill also command the Obedience of the Settlers, in distant Colonies a Measure of sound Policy the prospect of immediate advantage fires the wandering disposition of the American peasant, whilst that prospect subsists, he has no other Inducement to make his pitch as he terms it; has no real Attachment to

any form of Government nor to any Country. the encrease of taxes in the united States, the Monopoly of Lands in the hands of Government Agents, and of other Speculators, reasons, perhaps, less honorable, have driven an immense 20 Number of them into Upper Canada; a pretence of loyalty whether well or ill founded pleads for their Admission, in point of Numbers they greatly surpass the King's old and faithful Subjects. the disposition is rapidly encreasing and must continue to encrease. an Attempt to check it would be equally injudicious and ineffectual. tho it may not be possible to reduce this disposition, some Measures may be adopted in Silence to prevent any Evil resulting from it sound policy can hardly suggest a Measure more effectual or less liable to Suspicion than to man the frontier Posts with Troops, whose language and habits are different from that of the Settlers in order to prevent desertion. & station a considerable Body of british troops at York where desertion is almost impracticable the American impatient of Restraint must see a military force at hand ready to reduce him and confine him to order.

from Niagara to the Head of the Lake on the way to York a distance of 45 miles, the Country is well settled, there are many Creeks and Rivers of Note, nearly midway is a most dangerous defile, the Road after descending rapidly into a deep Valley rises on a sort of hill not more than twenty yards in breadth, steep on both sides, covered with an impassable wood, as is the Valley below. at the Head of the Lake is a defile about one Mile in Length between Lake Ontario and the little Lake 'tis a beautiful walk, a few large trees interspersed, no underwood, in breadth from 100 to 200 yards at the extremity is a Wooden Bridge over a seeming River, thro' which the water flows alternately from one Lake into another. this defile cannot be avoided. from the Head of the Lake to York the Country is unsettled; there are many defiles and dangerous passes; the River Credit within fourteen miles of York is wide not fordable where the wood is passable if the Inhabitants of that Country be well affected with some Military Men to direct and encourage them from their knowledge of the Country an Army would be cut to pieces in passing thro these defiles and crossing Rivers and Creeks.

Kingston at the other Extremity of Lake Ontario is 150 miles distant from Niagara and nearly the same distance from York, in Kingston there are no fortifications; the Merchants' Vessels lie in the Bay opposite the town, the King's Ships in a small Bay opposite to it, formed by the Mainland and a small peninsula called point Frederick. as the Americans have no Shipping in Lake Ontario two or three Armed Vessels may command this Lake and stop the Communication between Oswego and Niagara, the Lake below Kingston has a most romantic Appearance, 'tis filled with small Islands the number not known. a distance of about thirty miles on one Bank of the Lake is unsettled. from thence to Montreal a distance of 170 Miles are many strong Settlements on the British Side, a few cottages on 21 the opposite side, the current in the river is uniformly strong at different intervals where the descent is steep and immediate the Breakers are truly frightful. they are not to be passed without an experienced Guide. at the Cedars 45 miles above Montreal is one of these Rapids, as they are called, of considerable Note and of the greatest consequence. after passing thro' some Locks the Boats are unloaded and the Packages transported by Land 4 or five Miles, the Boats are again loaded and spend a day or more in working a few miles to the Locks at the Coteau du Lac, from whence they get into lake St. Regis. this is the only pass from Lower Canada to Upper Canada. if seized on by an Enemy the Communication is instantly cut off. the Average passage for loaded boats from Montreal to Kingston is fourteen days. from Kingston to montreal down the River the passage is made in three days frequently two.

the truth of the foregoing observations was admitted by Gen. Hunter, the Necessity of the proposed Measures Acknowledged; the then Chief Justice Ellemsley in a Letter to the Writer declared the reasoning irresistable; why the measures were not adopted he is left to conjecture.

the province of Lower Canada is so well known that the writer will confine himself to a few cursory Remarks.

Montreal a large rich and populous town, in which the whole of the fur trade centers, is built on an Island, which bears that name, open on every side. its Vicinity wealth and defenceless State are an irrestible temptation to the poverty & rapacity of the Vermont Adventurer. in the Event of a War an immediate incursion in pursuit of plunder must be expected. some armed Galleys to stem the Current independent on the Winds, a flying camp composed of a strong Body of Militia, accompanied by a certain proportion of Regulars with some light field pieces under the Command of an active and intelligent Officer will be necessary for its protection. the Idea of abandoning that great town to its fate in order to concentrate our whole force within the Walls of Quebec is impolitic. if the People be willing to defend their possessions, they must be supported; if protection be refused by us, they'll seek it elsewhere. this force ought to remain within the Island and dispute the landing at whatever point it may be attempted. parties of Indians may be kept in the Woods near St. Johns to watch the Enemy's Motions and harrass him, and at the same time to give notice of his force, whether a threaten'd invasion of the Enemy's Country by advancing a Body of troops towards St. Johns, on the frontiers, be not more advisable in order to keep him at home & to encourage our own Settlers will rest with the Commander in Chief to determine. a real invasion is a bold Measure and ought not to be adopted but upon full conviction of finding 22 support in the Country. the way from Montreal to Albany should be inspected by some Military Character, capable of describing it, the Nature of the Adjacent Country & the disposition of the Inhabitants can be fully investigated. there can be no dependence upon the vague reports of travellers. the distances from Montreal are thus marked to Laprairie a village on the opposite side of the River above Montreal 9 miles, thence to St. Johns, at the entrance of Lake Champlain, where we have a ruin'd Barrack and a Picket fence called a fort 18 Miles; thence thro Lake Champlain a distance of 160 miles to Whitehall or Sheemsborough; near the Bank of the Lake there's a Wagon Road rough, but passable to Burlington 80 Miles and thence to Sheemsborough 80 Miles of a more passable Road, thence to Albany a Mail Coch runs thro' a settled Country 70 Miles and thence to New York 170 Miles.

From Montreal to Quebec are 180 miles down the River St. Lawrence, which runs through a charming country well settled, and cultivated on both sides. the River Sorrel coming from the Southward falls into it 45 miles below Montreal this river is navigable for vessels of a moderate size a certain distance up the country, if an attack be intended on Quebec the cannon will descend on that River. the french government had order'd a fort to be erected near its entrance into the St. Lawrence, a wise, and politic measure, the intendant raised a mound of Sand fenced with Pickets, reported the work compleat, and put the money in his pocket. 'tis a Post which deserves Attention. the occupation of it by an Enemy will effectually interrupt the water communication between Quebec and Montreal. In this cursory view the writer can't help remarking, that the fortification of Quebec however strong it may appear, or be reported, upon a close investigation appears ill calculated for defence if the attack be conducted by an experienced officer, the work is very extensive 10000 men are not more than sufficient to man the work in all the different Points which are open to attack, there's no ditch no Covert way, no Glacis, the foundation of the wall is seen at a distance, Ramparts are strong, 'tis true, regularly built, faced with stone; but there are neither *tenailles* nor *tenaillons* nor any defence whatever to annoy the Enemy near the walls. the guns in the reentering Angles of the flank which ought to sweep the faces of the Respective Bastions, which they defend, to destroy sealing ladders, dont range within some feet of them, the fire of the Musquetry along the talers of the Parapet will pass over fifty or sixty yards before it descends within seven feet of the ground. this Remark applies to the Embrazures of the cannon, both the Embrazures and Parapet were originally intended to sweep the Glacis at the proper distance, a ditch was commenced outside the Citadel with a counter scarp, covert way, traverses and Glacis, Galleries for Mines &c. by Gen. Haldimand when Commander 23 in Chief, 'tis yet unfinished. there's a defect which cannot be remedied but by the ruin of many Families; a whole street is built outside St. Johns Gate, & comes within a few yards of it. tho' the houses may be destroyed, yet the walls will cover the enemy in his approach and destroy the effect of our fire.

the writer when passing thro' their country not having proper investment to determine with precision the exact position of the different Posts and Places which are noticed in this Statement, and unwilling to take for granted, what he learned from men, who did not seem well qualified to give true information, took no Chart of the Lakes and Rivers simply making the bearings and distances of the most remarkable by computation not far from truth.1

1 See appendix.

Information collected from Indian traders their clerks and agents, the writer has found invariably false, interest is their sole study, it occupies their thoughts, is the spring of their actions. they are extremely intelligent and active in collecting furs and in all the minutia of that art, by them positions were chosen in view of immediate gain, and on their representation were the King's Posts established.

Distances Miles

From Quebec to Montreal 180

to Kingston 210

to Niagara 150

to Gibawa 188

to Fort Erie 188

over Lake Erie to Long Point 60 W t S

to Sandusky Isles 120 W t S

to Amherstburg 40 N t E

in Detroit River to Sandwich 16 N t W

to Lake Sinclair 14 N t E

to the Bar 21 W t S

the fiddler's reach 5 S t E

to Chenal Ecarté 4 N t W

to the rapids N trending E

on Lake Huron to the Bosks on the Bay of Saguinaw 80 N t W

to point Sable cross the Bay 40 do

to Thunder Bay Islands 12 do

to Middle Islands 8 do

to Detour on the Gap 85 N t W

to St. Joseph 9 N.

to the Falls of St Mary or outlet of Lake Superior 40 Miles

24

the writer hopes this Statement of a Country which his Excellency Sir George Prevost1 has not seen will not be unacceptable. he humbly hopes and requests that Clerks in Office may have no Access to it. his Excellency will not think the request impertinent if he considers that the Writer has seen as Clerk in a military Secretarys office a man whom he knew to be disaffected, and from his personal knowledge of the Man, who recommended

him for the place has reasons to believe that he was recommended expressly to report communications or counteract them.

1 See appendix.

[Freer papers, 1786–1810-p 10.]

COL. MCKEE TO MR. CLAUS

(*Indians*)

Sandwich 15th August 1800

Dear Sir ,

Two or three days ago Blue Jacket1 came to me & calling me out, told me, he could conceal nothing that had the least tendency to affect me or the Country I lived in, but that I must promise secrecy & he would communicate to me something of consequence entreating me at the same time never to let the Americans know him as the person who mentioned the matter, as he was in some measure supported by them & had his son at School among them.

After having promised that nothing he could tell me should come to their ears, he told me that Major Hunt, the Commanding Officer of Detroit had a long conversation with him, wherein he told him that he could trust him with any secret, he would in confidence tell him some news.

Which were that the Great Men (Meaning no doubt the Commissioners) the United States had sent to France had adjusted all disputes between them & that they were now to act in concert against Great Britain; that the preceeding day he had received Letters by Express from a Spanish Garrison on the Mississippi in confirmation of the circumstance & requesting of him to inform them (the Spaniards) of any machinations of Great Britain

hostile to the Spanish Interests; & whether Great Britain had not already employed parties of Indians to strike them, & that as it was now become a common cause any injury done to the one ought to affect the other.

Blue Jacket says Major Hunt requested of him to endeavor to find out 25 from me whether we had yet any expectations of a war with the United States & whether Indians were employed against the Spaniards.

I am Dear Sir Your most obedient Humble Servant 1 T. McKee

1 Thomas McKee, superintendent of Indian affairs at Amherstburg, St. Joseph island, and British posts on the lakes.

William Claus 2 Esquire Deputy Superintendant General &c-&c. Fort George

2 In general charge of Indian affairs in Canada and the Northwest, and as such influential among Indians on the American side of the line.

P. S. Mr. Ironside having mentioned to me, that from Captain McLeans refusal to sanction the making of Bags & Flags for Indians, he is afraid he shall be obliged to pay for them himself, I wish to represent the hardship to you, not doubting you will interest yourself in the business. Captain McLean saying the Indians could make these things themselves may be true, but were Bunting given to a chief to make himself a flag of he would despise it & the Govt. that gave it

[M. G. 9-p 11.]

CAPTAIN MCLEAN TO SECRETARY GREEN

(*Military Posts*)

Amherstburg 26th Octr 1800

Sir —

I have to report for the information of Lieut General Hunter that His Majesty's skow Ottawa is returned from the Islands with Cedar timber to compleat our works. and is now ready to proceed immediately with Mr. Howard to Fort Erie agreeable to His Excellencys intentions; she will be laid up for the season on her return. The schooner Francis is not yet returned from the Island of St Joseph, but daily expected.

A circumstance has lately taken place here which tho' of itself I hope of no great consequence, yet lest it should be misrepresented thro' another Channel by prejudiced person I think it proper to give a fair statement of it for the information of the Lieutenant General, who tho' he may condemn the transaction as irregular, will I trust be convinced that it was not sanctioned by any authority from me. A few days ago I gave a pass to a sergt. and two men of this garrison to go to Detroit on business, while there, they were told by some officers of the American Garrison that a deserter from us lived at a small distance from the Fort, and might be easily taken and 26 brought over to this side without trouble as his bad character rendered him so obnoxious to every body in the vicinity that none would protect him; The sergt. having no authority, at first declined meddling with him, but one of the American officers offering to assist and to conduct them to the House in the night where the Deserter lay, he at last was prevailed upon to go. On their approaching the House, the deserter hearing some noise and suspecting a desire to take him was prepared with an Ax, so that when the door was opened he wounded the sergeant who being irritated at this, and having no other weapon but his side arms, drew them and unfortunately retaliated the blow, the Deserter was then seized put in a canoe and carried over to this side, where he died of the wound two days ago.

However irregular this transaction I hope His Excellency will not consider any blame attached to me as it was entirely without my knowledge or concurrence that any violence of the kind took place, & I verely believe that the serjeant who is a very good man thought

he was doing a meritorious act by apprehending a deserter. without adverting to the difference of doing so on foreign ground.

The Americans themselves having intended to take this man and deliver him up to us in case he had come within their garrison & having first proposed the measure stimulated the serjeant to it; and even aided and assisted in the business; it is not likely they will take any notice of it, especially as they know that it was not sanctioned by authority on our side and that the most perfect Harmony subsists between us.

I am sorry to say that there are some bad characters on both sides, who wish to encourage desertion to enable them the more easily to procure Laborers, of which there is a great scarcity in this part of the country.

His Excellency may rest assured that I shall preclude of possibility of anything of a like nature taking place in the future, by not suffering any one from this garrison to cross the river; so that His Excellency will never have any cause of displeasure on such a score, nor I hope any other in which I have the least concern.

I have the honor to be Sir Your mo: obed t & most humble Servant Hector McLean 1 Capt R. C. V. Comm g

1 See appendix.

Major Green Military Sect y

[C 512-p 109]

27

CAPTAIN CLERK TO SECRETARY GREEN

(*Military Posts*)

St. Josephs 9th July 1805.

Sir ,

I had the honor to write you on the 6th Instant by a Merchant Vessel going to Amherstburg which sailed the 7th on which day His Majesty's new Schooner Hope arrived with Ensign Ellis, & a reinforcement to the garrison of one Lance Sergeant, one Lance Corporal and seven private soldiers.

In my last letter I said that Ensign Jones was to take his passage to Amherstburg in the Merchant vessel, but he has to avoid expence and with my permission deferred his departure until the sailing of the Hope which I expect will be to morrow.

The Copper work for the Powder Magazine having been sent, all the works ordered will be completed, & Mr. Cornwall with the four carpenters sent to Amhurstburg in the Hope.

I was yesterday applied to by the officer commanding the American Garrison of Michillimackinac who has met with a misfortune similar to that which lately happened to me, having on the 4th Instant lost nine men & a new Bateau: I assured him that no exertion on our part should be wanting to render him every assistance in apprehending deserters, but as yet his men have not been seen nor heard of at this Post.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient and most humble Servant Al. Clerk Capt. 49th Regt. Commanding.

Lieut Colonel Green Military Secretary.

[C 513-p 216.]

GOVERNOR GRISWOLD TO MAJOR CAMPBELL

(*Military Posts*)

Library of Congress

Detroit 16th December 1805

Sir

Having perused the evidence given under oath respecting the conduct of some of your Officers and Troops, which took place on the River Rouge, 28 and in this Town, on the 8th Instant, I am under the painful necessity of informing you, that I consider it, not only as an outrage upon the private rights and peace of our Citizens, but as an insult upon our Government, and an act of hostility against our nation.

I shall therefore loose no time to transmit an authenticated statement of the transaction to our Country. The Arms, which fell into the hands of our Citizens on the unhappy occasion, will be held as lawful prize, until the pleasure of the Government shall be Known.

In the meantime, Sir, you will take what measures you think proper, in relation to the offenders; and any communications you shall think fit to make to our Government through my hands, I shall with pleasure forward with as little delay as possible.

Accept the assurance of my personal respect I have the honor to be

Sir Your Most obedient and very humble servant (Signed) Stanley Griswold 1

1 Secretary of the territory, and acting governor in the absence of Gen. William Hull, governor. Griswold street, Detroit, is named from this Stanley Griswold.

Acting Governor of the Territory of Michigan.

The Commanding Officer at Malden

[C 514-p 31.]

MAJOR CAMPBELL TO GOVERNOR GRISWOLD

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(*Military Posts*)

Amherstburg 19th Dec m 1805

Sir

I Received your letter of the 16th Inst: by Captain Dyson, the contents of which surprise me not a little.—Whatever impropriety may have taken place on the American Territory by any of the troops under my Command, be assured Sir, was entirely Unauthorized by me, and I shall ever be ready to give up a Delinquent to merited punishment, whenever he is pointed out.—I have however much reason to believe that the affair you alude to at the River, Rouge, has been greatly misrepresented, a single ignorant *unarmed* soldier did seize on a Deserter and thief from this Post, but gave him up to a party of American Citizens when demanded.—

As to what took place at Detroit, the officers on that occasion also acted without the least sanction or order from me, and if they have violated the laws of the United States, to their justice I leave them.—

29

With respect to the Arms, I should conceive (altho: no lawyer) that when a Civil suit has commenced and the parties bound to appear, that they should be returned.

Allow me Sir, to conclude by assuring you that so far from its being my wish to commit or action the smallest breach in that good understanding which subsists between the United States and Great Britain, that on the contrary it is my earnest desire, to cultivate the most amicable and friendly intercourse with the Inhabitants, and Government of the Territory of Michigan

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient Humble Servant Alex Campbell Major 41st Regt Commanding

Stanley Griswold Esquire Acting Governor of the Territory of Michigan

[C 514-p. 29.]

LIEUT. COL. FOSTER TO SECRETARY GREEN

(*Military Posts*)

York January 3rd 1806 Upper Canada

Sir ,

I beg Leave to represent for the consideration of Colonel Bowes commanding His Majesty's Forces in the Canadas that from the Reduction by Desertion, and death of 12 men in the Strength of the Amherstburg Detachment it is inadequate to the Duty of the Post, and supplying the working Parties required to assist the Marine Department in procuring materials for Ship Building etc. and that at St. Joseph's, where they are least exposed to Desertion, the Detachment is stronger in proportion the Duty requiring as I am informed, but a Corporal and three daily, every circumstance the Detachment at Amherstburg appears to me to be most exposed to Desertion of any in Upper Canada.

Major Campbell has experienced much delay in procuring money to pay his Detachment, and from the Commissary Mr. Reynolds1 experiencing the

1 Robert Reynolds, commissary of the 41st regiment, became, when the war opened, deputy assistant commissary general to Proctor's command. Was at the Raisin, Jan. 22, 1813.

30 same Difficulty, Mr. Stanton Assist. Deputy Paymaster General has received Directions to send him £600 in cash by the first safe opportunity. I wish to know if any arrangement can be made for the Regular Supply of Cash to the Amherstburg Detachment; or if there is any other objection to my occasionally sending an officer to Fort George for money, if

requisite when the Navagation is open, Captain Fuller has applied to me to promise him Repayment for his Passage across Lake Erie in an American Vessel, there being at that time no Opportunity in any of His Majestys Vessels:—

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient humble Servant Henry Foster . L t Col l 41 st Reg t

James Green Esq e Military Secretary.

[C 514-p 1.]

FROM MAJOR CAMPBELL—UNADDRESSED

(*Military Posts*)

Amherstburg 5th Jan y 1806

Sir—

It is with real concern that I am under the necessity of reporting to you, for the information of Colonel Bowes, a transaction which took place at Detroit on the 8th ulto; where two of the officers under my command were arrested by the Civil power for a breach of the peace, the circumstances which led to this were as follows,

On the 7th of December 1805, two men deserted from this post, after an unavailing pursuit, I had every reason to believe that they had made good their way to Detroit; I therefore resolved to seize this opportunity of ascertaining whether the American Com t could or would give us any assistance towards recovering them, consistent with propriety, and without infringing on the treaty between the two Country's, & also to request of him not to enlist any deserter; promising to do the same on my part, & likewise to give him every assistance in my power in apprehending his Deserters.—I sent Capt Muir1 and Ensign Lundie with a message to this effect, to the American officer commanding at Detroit. who

received them with much politeness, and agreed to every thing I required, at the same time telling them

1 Capt. A. C. Muir, 41st regiment; later with Gen. Proctor and made Major. An active officer, commended by Gen. Brock. In the expedition to the Miami, etc. Commandant at Detroit for a while after Hull's surrender in 1812.

31 that he had himself lost about twenty men in the course of little more than a month by Desertion.—

During the evening two of the American officers came to Capt Muir and Mr Lundie and told them that they had traced one of the deserters to a certain house by the river side, where he might easily be secured, and that they had a boat ready to convey him to the other side;—On this Capt: Muir and Mr Lundie prompted by their Zeal for His Majesty's service, but without considering the danger and impropriety of such a measure immediately accompanied them to the spot, where they seized David Morrison a Deserter from the 41st Reg t & were dragging him to the Boat, when a mob rose and rescued him;—Capt: Muir was severely wounded by Morrison, with a pistol shot, in the Calf of the leg, and they were both arrested by the Civil powers, and obliged to give large security for their appearance there in the month of September next, to take their trial for an assault.—I am glad to observe that neither of our officers used any offensive weapon on the occasion, what they did was merely seizing the Deserter and forcibly dragging him to the boat and altho' nothing can excuse their conduct, yet I sincerely believe they acted as they imagined for the best, & that their extreme zeal for the good of the service caused them to forget for a moment, that their proceedings, were an outrage on the Laws of an Independent State. I received a letter on the subject from the Actg Governor of Detroit, & in reply told him that the officers had acted without any authority from me and if they had violated the laws of the States on their territory, they should be left to Justice—Captain Muir will be able to proceed to his Command on the opening of the navigation, but requests permission of Colonel Bowes, to come down here in order to stand his trial at Detroit, in September next. —There are vessels frequently going between this and St. Joseph's during the summer

months, but in case an opportunity of this kind does not occur, I understand he can be here from that Post in seven or eight days, by a birch canoe.

In consequence of the melancholy loss of two men stationed at the block house on the Island of Bois Blanc, by the upsetting of their Canoe, which was the only Conveyance they had to cross the river, when duty or the receipt of their provisions Called them this side, & to prevent such an accident in future, I have directed the enclosed Estimate for the building of a skiff, for the above service to be made out—she is to be light enough for one man to row.—The whole expense is estimated at £7-19-0 but as the Carpenter of the Camden is from his age incapable of going to the woods to cut ship timber, and is consequently almost without employment at this season, I have ventured to order him immediately to begin the skiff which he will 32 be able to finish before he is wanted for any other duty, by so doing the real additional cost to Government, will be only £2. 15. 0, making a saving of £5. 4. 0, by employing this man at present, who would otherwise be idle.—I likewise enclose another Estimate for a Garrison boat to row 4 or six oars, & to be furnished with adequate sails—such a boat would be of the greatest service at this Post, for by her means Deserters might often be headed on this side of the river before they were able to cross, & by her rowing swiftly, or sailing when the wind permitted she might be enabled to secure every boat or Canoe along the bank of the river as they passed—Deserters must always cross at some distance from the Post, as every precaution is taken to prevent vessels of any description from laying on the Garrison ground without being properly secured. She would also much forward the public in another point of view, for while the Navigation is open a great part of the Gen'l orders & letters on service are sent in Merchant Vessels, few or none of which stop here, and as we have no proper boat to board them, by their running past we are frequently days and sometimes a week later in receiving those papers.—Vessels also often come of the bar with a wind that will not bring them into the river, & must consequently lay there till it changes.—It is frequently impossible and generally unsafe to perform any service of this nature in Batteaux, and

owing to their weight & want of swiftness they are totally useless for the first service mentioned.

There was formerly a Boat of this description at the Post tho' somewhat larger, but this I conceive is fully adequate for any purpose, not will she draw too much water for the service I have stated.—I have also enclosed the return of the offrs comdg at the Post, with the command money due for the last half year.—as no orders have been received relative to a Military express this season, I do not think myself authorized to send one, shall therefore only forward such papers by Post, as I judge absolutely necessary.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obe dt humble Servant Alex Campbell 1 Major Comm g 1

1 Major Campbell was in command of the post at Amherstburg, 1805–6. From 1806 to 1807 he was commandant at the post of St. Joseph, on an Island in St. Mary's river.

[C 514-p 4.]

33

ANTHONY MERRY TO COLONEL BOWES1

1 Col. Bowes was in 1806 in command of the British army in Upper Canada; now called Ontario.

(*Relations with United States*)

Washington March 21st 1806

Sir

I have received the Honor of your Letters of the 19th and 20th of last month, and request of you to accept of my Acknowledgments for the Communications they Contain, of which I shall make proper Use as occasion may require.

Hitherto, no other Information than that stated in your letter has reached me respecting the person calling himself Lieut Colonel Bruce; and, although some unfavorable observations have appeared in the American Papers upon the occurrence at Detroit, which has made the subject of your Letter of the 20th February, no notice has been taken of it to me by the American Government.

Notwithstanding the circumstances which were stated in the message of the President to the Congress of the United states, and the measures which have been proposed in the Legislature to be adopted in consequence of it, as appearing likely to affect the friendly relations between His Majesty's and the American Governments, I think it is right to mention that no military Preparations of any kind have as yet been ordered to be made, nor will, I trust, be commenced, to give occasion for any jealousy or extraordinary Precaution on the Part of the officers in the Government of His Majisty's Provinces on this Continent.

I have the honor to be with great Truth and Regard Your most obedient humble servt Ant'Y Merry 2

2 Anthony Merry was the British minister at Washington.

Colonel Bowes &c &c &c

[C 676-p 3.]

FROM MAJOR CAMPBELL—UNADDRESSED

(*Military Posts*)

Amherstburg 31st May 1806

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 26th Feby, on the 25th Inst.

By reference to my Letter to you of 5th Jan y , I find that I have stated that disagreeable transaction at Detroit, exactly as it occurred. 5

34

The circumstance of a Corporal of ours seizing on one of the deserters, also took place, as noticed in my reply, to the letter of the American acting Governor.

This corporal belonged to a party that was sent (not to *seize a deserter* on the *American side*) but to head them, and to occupy an advantage on situations to intercept them *on the river* , they were in pursuit of a canoe which was crossing the river in order to examine her, & had left this man on the American side to see some provisions dressed for the party. While thus engaged Morrison one of the deserters having just landed from our side, came to the house where he was, the corporal immediately laid hold of him, but on some Americans interfering, gave him up, and no scuffle ensued, he was alone and unarmed.—

The Arms alluded to, in my answer to Mr Griswold's letter, was some Pistols belonging to Captain Muir & Mr Lundie,—but as I formerly stated, they were never made use of by them; Captain Muir being wounded by one of his own Pistols, which Morrison pulled from his breast, in the struggle.—

I think it necessary to observe here, that the Circumstance of the deserter being seized by the Corporal, was unknown to me, at the time I dispatched Captain Muir & Mr Lundie to Detroit.—

The names of the securities for the appearance of those Gentlemen at Detroit in September, are Captain Samuel Dyson the American Comd g Officer, Mr. Jonathan Nelson, and Mr Elisha Brush,1 they are bound in 2000 D ls for Captain Muir & the same for Mr. Lundie, who are also bound themselves in a like sum.

1 See appendix.

I trust that however unfortunate and disagreeable this business has turned out, Col Bowes will do me the justice, to acquit me of any share of blame, as those officers acted entirely from themselves, the business on which I sent them being of a very different nature.—

The Actg. Governor of Detroit is not much respected among them, and his letter to me was received by all who were acquainted with the contents, in a very ridiculous light, as they conceive that the transaction was at most, but a simple breach of the peace. I have reason to believe that the business was never represented in any light, to their General Government. The perfect understanding that has since subsisted between the two Garrisons, has had a very great effect in preventing desertion, & none have since attempted that route.

I have the honour to be Sir Your most Obt. H. servant Alex Campbell Capt. Commg.

[C 514-p 25.]

35

MAJOR CAMPBELL TO SECRETARY GREEN

(*Military Posts*)

Island of St. Joseph's 10 July 1806

Sir

A gentleman having called on me who is going down the Grand River; I think it a favorable opportunity of informing you that I took the Command of his Post on the 7th Inst, as it may perhaps be satisfactory for Colonol Bowes to know, that his arrangements in respect to the Quarters in Upper Canada are now complete.

I have the honer to be Sir Your most obedient Servant Alex Campbell Major Commanding

James Green Esq Military Secretary.

[C 514-p 40.]

LIEUT COL. GRANT TO SECRETARY GREEN

(*Military Posts*)

Amherstburg July 26th 1806

Sir

I have the honer to acknowledge the receipt of your letters dated the 2nd and 9th of last June, and all Directions contained therein shall be duly attended to.

It affords me sensible satisfaction that the explanation I have given respecting Stewart and Ruby, two deserters from the American service, has proved satisfactory. I do assure you that I did not act on that occasion with thoughtless precipitance. I was most fully aware of all the consequences likely to follow from such a business, but the circumstances of the case left me no other line of Conduct to pursue. I was extremely mortified to find that Colonel Bowes disapproved of what I had done. I arrived here the 19th of June, Major Campbell sailed the 27th Lieut: Fitzgerald applied to me for leave to accompany the Major to St. Joseph's so as to return in the Camden, Major Campbell was very desirous of it, and as I understood that Ens n Lundie had gone on leave to St. Josephs some time since, and that Colonel Bowes did not disapprove of it, I took the liberty of complying 36 with Lieut.

Fitzgerald's request, and the Majors desire. Lieutenant Fitzgerald returned in the Camden. She arrived here with Capt: Muir on the 20th inst:.

On my arrival here I found that much danger may arise to the Public Buildings in case of fire from a want of ladders, I ordered a return of those wanted to be made out which I enclose with an estimate of the Expense for Colonel Bowes Consideration, I also Enclose herewith a Return of the officers who Commanded at Amherstburg from the 25th Dec m 1805 to the 24th of June 1806. Mr. Elliott of this place proposed to me this day to supply the garrison with fresh Beef for the Months of September, October, November, and December 1806 at 3 d per lb Halifax Currency; As a similar contract was entered into last year, and approved of by Col n Bowes, I have accepted Mr. Elliott's proposal which I trust Colonel Bowes will approve. Mr. Elliott has been prevented sending in his Proposal sooner, in Conformity to the advertisement, by not being able to ascertain whether he could fulfill the contract or not; He assured me it was only yesterday he found he could, and that he has lost no time in making the Proposal. He tells me he could not afford to supply the Troops with Beef during the Months of Jan y and Feb y at 3 d per lb.

I have the honor to be Sir, Your Mo, Obed t humble Servant J. Grant , Lt. Col. Major 41st Regiment.

James Green Esq Mil: Sect y

[C 514-p 41.]

MAJOR CAMPBELL TO SECRETARY GREEN

(*Military Posts*)

St. Joseph 28 Sept 1806

Sir .

I have the honor to Acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 3rd July addressed to Capt. Muir, on the subject of ordnance stores, and the Repair of Quarters at this Post—

I have also received your letter of 8th July relative to the disagreeable affair at Detroit, and it gives me much pleasure to find that my conduct on that occasion has been approved by Colonol Bowes—

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I now beg you will represent to the Commander of the Forces, that not having expected any repairs to the Quarters here this season I had previous to Mr. Cornwalls arrival plastered the ceiling &c of the Rooms in the officers part of the Block house, at my own expense: I told Mr. Cornwall he could take the plaster down. & do it with wood agreeable to his orders from the Com'y Engineer but he was of the opinion that as the work was well done, it would be better to let it stand for the present, leaving the wood until wanted for service at the Post, in order that it may be completed at any other time if thought necessary.—

Mr. Cornwall will of course make his report on the subject to Captain Dyson, and if the work is approved of in its present state, I hope some compensation will be made for the expense I have incurred—

I beg leave farther to report, that the officers cannot be quartered here agreeable to the Barrack regulations, there being only two rooms in this part of the Block House with chimnies, which I believe constitutes a Field Officers quarters the rest are uninhabitable in Winter for want of this necessary article so that there are *two* Captains, and eleven subalterns quarters wanting.—

My reason for stating this circumstance now, is the probability of a number of the Merchants in whos houses the officers reside at present, coming themselves to occupy

them in the Spring, in which case, the Gentlemen will neither have their allowance of quarters, or Lodging Money.—

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient humble servant Alex Campbell Major 41st Regt. Comg

James Green Esq. Military Secretary.

[C 514-p 63.]

LIEUT. COL. GRANT TO SECRETARY GREEN

(*Military Posts*)

Amherstburg October 19th 1806

Sir

From the Correspondence which has already taken place between you and Major Campbell relative to the affair of Captain Muir and Ensn. Lundie which happened at Detroit, I conceive it my duty to acquaint you with the 38 final result of it for the information of the Officer commanding the Forces in the Canadas.

Captain Muir and Ensign Lundie took their trial at Detroit on the 15th of last Septr. Capt. Muir was indicted for one Assault—Ensn Lundie for two, Judge Woodward,1 who was the sitting Judge paid many compliments to Great Britain in his address. The jury found both Capt. Muir and Ensign Lundie guilty, and Judge Woodward, contrary to the opinion of the Public fined Captain Muir Forty dollars and seventeen days imprisonment, and Ensign Lundie £2000 Stg. and six months imprisonment, By imprisonment was meant their not quitting the United state during that period, it was left to their option to stay where they pleased in the states during the time of confinement.

1 Judge Augustus B. Woodward, more particularly mentioned later on in this work.

After this sentence had been passed upon them, and their being given in charge to the Marshall, their Council discovered, that by the Laws of the Territory of Indiana they could not be fined more than one hundred dollars each for an assault, and could not be imprisoned. This was Substantiated by the Council, and Judge Woodward not Concurring (as I am told) that the fine was sufficient to mark the sense he had of the outrage committed on their Government, changed the former sentence on the part of Captain Muir and Ensign Lundie to a few cents. Those officers were then liberated, and they returned to their Quarters.

I conceive it right to say that Govr Hull interested himself much in behalf of Capt. Muir and Ensn Lundie, and that they received, during their trial, every mark of attention from him, Captain Dyson who commands, and the other officers composing the Garrison of Detroit. Governor Hull expressed his regret at Judge Woodwards sentence, and showed so much disapprobation of it, that he would scarcely speak to him, though very intimate with him previous to it.

The most friendly understanding subsists between this garrison and that at Detroit, and I shall cautiously guard against any conduct which may create any coolness between them and us.

I have the honor to be Sir Your obedt Humble Servt J. Grant , Lieut-Col. Comg

James Green Esq Mily Secty

[C 514-p 66.]

39

LIEUT. COL. GRANT TO SECRETARY GREEN

(*Provincial Marine*)

Amherstburg Oct. 20 th 1806

Sir ,

The Camden has returned from St. Josephs with the artificers who have completed the work they were sent up for. The Camden will sail the 21st Inst. for Fort Erie to bring up such stores as may be still there for this Post. As the Barrel Bulk for the Garrison of St. Josephs had not arrived here previous to the Camdens leaving this for that Post, and as it could not be forwarded then this Fall if it remained at Fort Erie until the arrival of the Camden there, I was obliged to get it up from Fort Erie here in the Nancy, and it has been forwarded in an American Government vessel which has gone to Michilimakina free of any charge. I promised an exchange of freight to the Captain of the Nancy whenever he may require it and the service admit of it.

When the Camden was going to St Josephs Ensign O'Keefe of the 41st Regiment applied to me for leave to go and return in her which I granted. The other Subalterns of this Post had been indulged with leave to go there previous to his application, and I was induced to grant his request the more as Military Artificers were going in the Camden, and as Major Campbell was anxious to see him. The Service admitted of my taking the liberty, and I trust it will not be disapproved of by the Officer Commanding the Forces.

I have the honor to be Sir Your very obed t hum l Serv t J. Grant , Lieut. Col. Comg.

James Green Esq. Milty Secy &c. &c.

[C 727-p 39.]

MAJOR CAMPBELL TO SECRETARY GREEN

(*Military Posts*)

St. Joseph's 15th January 1807

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the Receipt of your letters of 25th August 27th September and 13th October 1806.—

The road between this and York is scarcely passable as yet, but the express will be there if possible, by the time fixed.—

Mr John Johnston1 who at present resides at St Maries, has requested permission to erect a building at this Post, which I have granted, & which I hope will be confirmed by the Commander of the Forces.—

1 See appendix.

I transmit herewith the returns of stores at this Post, as found by Survey, agreeable to Colonel Brocks orders of 11th October last.

The 20 Bls of Pork lent to the American Garrison at Michillimacinac are to be returned early in the Spring.

That Garrison for want of other provisions were reduced to the necessity of feeding their men on Indian Corn, so that I did not think it advisable, to refuse them assistance.—

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient & humble Servant Alexr Campbell Major 41st Regt Comdg

James Green Esq. Military Secretary.

[C 514-p 70.]

CAPTAIN MUIR TO SECRETARY GREEN

(*Military Posts*)

Fort St Joseph 8th June 1807

Sir

For the Commander of the Forces information; I beg leave to acquaint you that I arrived at this Post on the first Instant, and shall assume the Command, immediately on the Departure of Major Campbell, who proposes leaving this on the eight.—

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient and very humble servant. A. Muir Capt 41st Regt

James Green Esqr Military secretary Quebec.

[C 514-p 96.]

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LIEUT. COLONEL GRANT TO SECRETARY GREEN

(*Relations with United States*)

Amherstburg August 17th 1807

Sir

I received your letters dated April 10th and June 1st 11th and 26th 1807.

I transmit to you herewith the Returns of Stores in charge of the Commissary and Depty Barrack Master of this Post condemned by Survey held at Amherstburg between the 18th Decm 1806, and 7th Jany, 1807 together with the usual certificates.

Mr. Davidson, Hospital Mate, arrived here with his Family before I received your letter of the 1st June.

I have taken such measure for the apprehending of the Person mentioned in your letter of the 11th June as were most prudent and necessary.

Mr. Sparkman the Depty Barrack Master at this Post, has been made acquainted with your letter of the 26th June last, and the Instructions therein contained shall be complied with as soon as possible.

I omitted mentioning to you in my former letter that in consequence of the Communication between the Garrison and Dock Yard becoming almost impassable from the extraordinary falls of Snow last winter, and constant heavy rains in the spring I was reduced to the necessity of using some scantling which lay in the Engineer yard, and which had been condemned by Survey. We have a sentry in the Dock Yard, and whenever he was relieved, the men suffered so much from the state of the road, that I thought it prudent to make a pathway of this Scantling from the Garrison to the Gate of the Dock Yard. This was the only measure I could take to prevent the men from suffering from fever and ague, as they constantly sunk in the mud to their Knees whenever the Relief went out. This scantling was of very little use, but for similar purposes for which it has been in part, applied, and as the Health of the Troops was likely to suffer extremely by not having some way of passing to the Dock Yard without injury to their health, I took the liberty of using this timber as the case was Urgent, and I trust the necessity of this measure will meet the consideration of Colonel Brock. I beg to observe that the scantling I have used suffers no more from being applied to its present use, than from lying in the Engineer Yard, & it

can easily be returned there, if the measure I took is not approved of. Had I time to lay the business before Colonel Brock1 I would not have acted from my own Authority.

1 Afterwards better known as Sir Isaac Brock. At this time he was in command of the western military district of Canada.

As the affair of the Leopard and Chesapeake2 has occasioned much ferment

2 See appendix.

42 at Detroit, and has also induced the Governor of the Territory of Michigan, who resides there, to take steps by no means indicative of friendly intentions, I conceive it my duty to acquaint you for Colonel Brock's information what is going forward there, as also to lay before him the present state of this garrison. The Militia of Detroit have been constantly assembled for the purpose of Drill, they amount to about 400, are much better disciplined than could well be supposed, are very well appointed, and two Companies are kept in constant pay. There is, besides, a company formed of Renegade Negroes who deserted from Captain Elliott and several Gentlemen at this side, This company consists of, I am informed, 36 in number, and are kept for such desperate services as may be required at this side, they being well acquainted with it. Great apprehensions are expressed at Detroit by the Governor and principal officers there of an attack from the Indians, and they industriously spread a report that the Indians are instigated by the British officers at Amherstburg. A law has been passed at Detroit, for that Colonial Privilege is allowed the Governor, requiring the Aid of all subjects to assist in erecting works &c for the Defence of the place. The inhabitants, in consequence, have been called in from the distance of 30 miles to contribute in labour. They have picketed in the whole Town of Detroit, and are erecting Block Houses at certain intervales, Every Military preparation is going forward there, and every violent declaration against this side. I have had information given me from a most respectable person at this side, that the Governor at Detroit declares, if an Indian fires a hostile shot in Detroit or in the Territory, he will treat the Canadians with the utmost severity. The apprehensions circulated at Detroit appear to me to proceed more

from Policy to freighten the Inhabitants into labour without food or reward, than from any real sense of danger from Indians. The regular force at Detroit Cap. 1 Lieuts 2 Sergts 4 Corpls 4 Drumrs 4 and Privates 67 mostly Artillery. The works at Detroit are very confined, Consisting of a small square with Guns placed at Intervals in each side of the square. A Block House and Draw Bridge at the Entrance, and ditches, frieze, & picketing. Guns can not take effect at Detroit from this side. The Force at Detroit is too inconsiderable to occasion any alarm here, however weak my Garrison, and circumstanced the situation of the works, but a Militia to the amount of 4 or 5000 may be brought against us in about Six weeks from Kentucky, and those are well enured to war, particularly of the Indian kind; The Aid I should expect there from Indians and Militia is of a very precarious kind. Indians can never be brought to act within pickets.

The state of the works of this Post must be known to Colonel Brock. There are four Bastions, one at each Angle, but one is unservicable, and excluded 43 from the works. The Picketing is entirely decayed and Broken down.

I have the honor to be Sir Your very Obedt Humble Servt I. Grant Lieut Coln Comg

James Green Esq Mil: Secty Quebec

[C 673-p 106.]

LIEUT. GOV. GORE TO SECRETARY THORNTON

(*Aliens*)

York, Upper Canada , 5th January 1808

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th of December, accompanied by a letter from Captain Muir of the 41st Regiment transmitting to the Commander of the Forces a Report from Joseph Chinegny Esq r .

I request of you to inform the Commander in Chief, that I received a similar Report from Captain Muir.

M r Chinegny was permitted to leave the Fort of Michilimackinac, almost immediately after his transmitting his letter to Captain Muir.

I have the honor to be, Sir Your most obedient Humble Servant Francis Gore , Lt. Governor.

Major Thornton Military Secretary Quebec

[C 14-p 163.]

44

MR. CLAUS TO LIEUT. GOV. GORE

(*Indians*)

Amherstburg 27th Feby 1808

Sir ,

The Messenger sent out to the Glaize on the 10th Instant, is not yet returned, I am much at a loss to account for his delay, he was desired to proceed to that place and see Mr. Fisher, who your Excellency has appointed an Interpreter, and to desire him to come in immediately & to bring the Shawanese Chiefs with him, and also the Prophet, the message was verbal, no writing was trusted with him for fear of accidents; the only way

that I can account for his delay, is that there may be some difficulty in persuading the Prophet (Lau-be-was-i-kaw) also (Els-qua-a-tawa) to come in.

On the 24th Instant I had a long conference with Guyash, a Chief of the Chippewa Nation, a tried soldier & trusty man, after a good deal of conversation he told me, that on his way here he called on the Governor at Detroit and asked him for news, the Govr told him he had received letters from Washington, and said that the English and Americans were getting nearer to each other and that he expected they were now one people, and that as soon as he heard any news he would let him know it, the conversation with Governor Hull took place last Saturday the 20th Instant. I then came to the point and asked him his opinion if there should be any disturbance between Great Britain & America, he said there were three Nations that spoke the same Language, the Ottawas Potawatamies and Chippewas that he heard that they had spoke often on that subject among themselves, and expected that they would be called on by the King if a War took place between the two countries, but that they must sit quiet; he continued & said, if the whole of the Nations were to talk together, that may not be the case, I told him that I hoped his idea of his friends would prove true if required, for that the King their Father had always shown a great regard for them & spared no expence to make them comfortable & that he would most certainly keep his eyes looking towards them.

Two days ago I had a private meeting with the little King an Ottawa Chief from L'Arbre Croche,1 and after talking some time I asked him the same question that I did Guyash (what was his opinion of the Indians if a disturbance took place between Great Britain & America?) his reply was, the ground is smooth yet, I pressd it again & his answer was, you will know if it happens. Your Excellency knows how cautious Indians are in general in giving their opinion, particularly on so delicate a matter, but from the manner in which he spoke it is easily to be understood that he considers the

1 Little Traverse Bay region on Lake Michigan; descendants of the Ottawa tribes are resident in the vicinity. L'Arbre Croche—French words meaning the bent (or crooked) tree.

45 Indians decidedly opposed to the Americans with the exception of the Hurons, who are very few, those two are the only men on the ground that I would speak to in confidence the rest are a very indifferent set. The Little King's Band, present, only 11 men, are very respectable Indians & appear to be most completely under his control.

The season for boiling Sugar is now arrived & the whole are pressing me very hard to return to their sugar Bush and to give them clothing as they have been kept here the whole winter, which has prevented them from hunting; I do not see how it is possible to keep them here without a very great expence indeed; I am obliged to give them this day, what presents remain in store, & if I was to detain them Just now, they would look for payment for the loss of the sugar season, and make a claim on Government for bread, from a pretence of losing the opportunity of preparing the ground for their corn, I shall use every endeavor in my power to detain some of the young men, those with families will go and it more than probable that they will not return before the latter end of April or May.

I cannot discover that the American Government have had any public or private meeting with the Indians, except the one of the 24th Novr last, with Governor Hull for the purpose of making a purchase of land which has caused much dissatisfaction among the several Nations between this Post & Lake Michigan, in my opinion it will not be settled without the loss of some lives.

I cannot close my letter without expressing my thanks to Your Excellency for Captain Elliotts assistance, which I have found of great use on several occasions.

with much respect I have the honor to be Your Excellencies most obedient and most humble Servant W. Claus D. S. G.

His Excellency Lieut Govr Gore &c. &c. &c.

[M. G. 11-p 8.]

MR. CLAUS TO MR. SELBY

(*Indians*)

Amherstburg 25th March 1808.

Sir ,

The indisposition of Captain Johnny the Shawanese chief prevented me from seeing him on business untill this day, he still continues very ill, but 46 his people being anxious to return home, induced me to go to their quarter & I there spoke to him on the situation of public affairs.

I cannot find out that any communication has been made to any of the Indian Nations by the American Government respecting the difference between Great Britain and America.

The enclosed is what was said to Capt. Johnny in the presence of Black-bear and the Buffaloe, Capt. Elliot was present & I was obliged to employ James Girty1 as my Interpreter as I had done on former occasions Firsher not having yet arrived.

1 Brother of the noted Simon Girty, and like him active in inciting the Indians to make war on the Americans; had a farm and home at Amherstburg.

I am rather disappointed at not hearing from you, particularly as you promised me that once a week at least you would send I have been here seven weeks & not one message yet, I have wrote twice officially to the Governor & twice to you, probably I have erred in writing to the Governor instead of its going through you, which enduces me now to transmit the enclosed to you, that you may lay the same before His Excellency.

No doubt but His Excellency must see some necessity for my stay here, or I should have received directions to return before now. The number Indians victualed now amounts to 259 men, women & children, & many of them go off tomorrow the Shawanese also.

I am Sir Your most obedt. Huml. Sert. W. CLAUS D. S. G.

P. Selby Esq. Asst. Secy. Ind. Affrs. York.

[M. G. 11-p 14.]

LIEUT. GOV. GORE TO SIR JAMES CRAIG

(*Cavalry*)

York 13th April 1808

Sir ,

I beg leave to report to Your Excellency, that Colonel Grant commanding at Amherstberg, has dispensed with the services of the Militia, which were embodied at that place, from the 24th of March last.

Colonel Grant states that the Militia of Detroit, has been allowed to return 47 to their respective homes, and are only required to attend every Sunday, at Roll calling.

Colonel Grant has requested of the Lieutenant of the County, that a Body of Militia, of equal strength, with that which has been doing Duty at Amherstburg, should be kept in readiness, to march at the shortest notice.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellency's most obedient and most humble servant Francis Gore , Lt. Governor

His Excellency General Sir James Craig K. B.

[C 703-p 31.]

MR. CLAUS TO LIEUT. GOV. GORE

(*Indians*)

Amherstburg 20th April 1808

Sir

Your Excellencies Dispatches of the 30th & 31st Ulto. I had the honour to receive yesterday.

The manner in which your excellency has communicated to me the absolute necessity of my considering, Amherstburg Sandwich or its vicinity to be the place of my General residence, demands from me my warmest thanks & I am fully convinced that nothing but the extreme unsettled state of public affairs, would have caused Your Excellency to deprive me of one of my greatest happinesses, that of being with my family. I am fully aware of the consequences of a public life, and it has been my fortune from an early period of my life to have had to struggle through in the best way I could, altho' born to different expectations.

I trust the confidence which your Excellency has been pleased to place in me is not thrown away nothing whatever on my part shall be wanting to establish as strongly as possible His Majestys Indian Interests with all the Nations in this Country & of obtaining what assistance (if necessary) that can be had.

You have Sir, called upon me for my opinion “as to the prospect of obtaining their assistance if required” from the best information that I can collect the number of fighting men on the waters of the Miamis, East borders of Lake Michigan, Sagana & the interior of

the Country between those 48 waters do not exceed fifteen hundred & I am very confident from the present defenceless condition of this Post, without the expectation of anything to back them, that we will find them *very* backward, was there an adequate force at this place I think that a sufficient number might be brought in to keep our ground until the back Indians would be brought forward, I mean those on the Banks of the Mississippi; messages have been sent to the Kickapoos, Saaks, Potawatamies, & the other Nations west of Lake Michigan, so long ago as October last & from the constant report of their being on their way, I have deferred sending a second message, I shall now lose no time in dispatching a confidential person to that country, by the earliest opportunity for St Josephs. I will write to Mr. Askin1 but I beg leave to suggest to Your Excellency that a message would reach that place much sooner from York by way of Matchidash.

1 See appendix.

I have been under the necessity of purchasing some goods since here the amount of which, with my traveling expenses from Fort George, and others, for which a regular account and vouchers shall be laid before Your Excellency, will be upwards of two hundred pounds, province curry. The necessity of my being in last, for Public Service, will I hope induce Your Excellency to order my Bills to be punctually paid, as I assure you my mind on that head is far from being easy, and I hope you are Sir convinced that I will not make an improper use of it.

Before I close my letter Your Excellency will permit me to say that I cannot sufficiently express the obligation I owe to Captain Elliott for the voluntary services he has rendered me in my intercourse with the Indians; the respect and regard they bear to him from his long and active services with them during the American war, has so endeared him to them, that his influence is not to be shaken, and I have only to lament there should be any impediment in the way of his being employed at a moment when that influence is of such consequence to the country.

I have the honour to be with the highest respect Your Excellencies most obedient and most faithful servant W. Claus , D. S. G.

His Excellency Francis Gore Esquire Lieut Governor &c. &c. &c. Upper Canada

[M. G. 11-p 16.]

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MR. CLAUS TO MR. SELBY

(*Indians*)

Amherstburg 3rd May 1808

Sir ,

Mr. Fisher, whose receipts to the 25th March last I now enclose, arrived here on the 22d ulto. he brings nothing new with him but what I have mentioned on a former occasion-the Language of the American Govt. to the Indians, to sit quiet in case of hostilities.

There is little doubt in my mind of the weight it has with them, owing to the very weak state of this country, it makes them extremely cautious. The Prophet1 has moved to the Wabashe with his people, nearly eighty men, he expects a visit from thirty different nations from the Southward and Westward of the Mississippi. I recd. a message from him through Fisher assuring me of his friendship, I find the cause of his not coming in when I sent for him, with the Shawanese Chiefs, was owing to a little jealousy between him and those chiefs. I understand that Mr. McDonald has left a packet for me at Mr. Dalsons which he brought from York, I have sent over for it.

1 A Shawanee chief, brother of Tecumseh, engaged in uniting the tribes against the Americans. Confederacy crushed by Harrison at Tippecanoe, 1811. Not a warrior.

Everything appears perfectly quiet among the Indians.

Your obedt. Sert W. Claus , W. S. G.

P. Selby, Esq. Asst. Secy. Ind Affrs. York

[M. G. 11.-p 21.]

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM LIEUT. COLONEL GRANT 41st REGIMENT, COMMANDING AT AMHERSTBURG DATED 6th OF MAY 1808

(*North West*)

Affairs in this country continue nearly the same as when I last wrote to you. The strength of my Garrison does not exceed 60 Rank and file, and of those, being composed of old men, 30 are not fit for service, or even extraordinary duty. I have had a Company of Militia on Duty here during the Winter. Of the Militia of this Country, speaking even with moderation of them, one half can only be depended on, the rest are surely Enemys, waiting, as the People of Detroit are, the trumpet of war or Savage yell. The Indians are almost entirely gone from this post, and nothing be assured by 7 50 me, but a strong military Force at this Post, which is of the first importance, will bring them back. If Detroit be reinforced before we are, and War takes place, *we must fall* .

[C 363-p 60.]

MR. NICHOL TO GENERAL BROCK1

1 See appendix.

(*North West*)

Niagara May 21-1808

My dear Sir ,

Conceiving that in the present critical state of our Affairs with the United States—it might be desirable for His Excellency the Commander in Chief to have early and correct information of any Movements of the American Troops on our Frontiers—I have conceived it to be my duty to State to you that I have received intelligence which can be depended on that strong reinforcement of Troops of the line have been ordered from the interior of the United States to the Posts of Detroit and Michilimackinack and that a detachment of these amounting to upwards of a hundred men has already arrived at Presque Isle on Lake Erie. I have conversed with the Captain of the vessel chartered to bring them up. My reason for being so forward to report this to you is that the sudden collection of a large Force at the present time in these places might very materially affect our intercourse with the Indian Nations and dispose them to commit hostilities on our distant Settlements before we could afford them the necessary protection. While writing a most unpleasant circumstance has taken place which is I think strong evidence of the hostile intentions of the United States.

Twenty Boats belonging to the North West and South West Companies—navigating Lake Ontario under the Faith of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce—were this morning fired upon by the American Garrison and Seventeen of the Twenty Captured—the remaining three made their escape to this Side, it is unnecessary for me to say more on this subject as I presume correct Statements of the Facts will be forwarded to the proper Authorities—

I write in great haste the vessel being Just on the point of sailing.

I am with much respect My Dear Sir Your very obed. Humble Serv. Rob. Nichol .1

Brig. General Brock &c. &c. &c. Montreal

[C 363-p 66.]

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CAPT. MCKENZIE TO SECRETARY HATTON

(*Relations with United States*)

Kingston , November 3d 1808

Sir ,

I have the honor to enclose for the perusal of His Excellency, The Lieutenant Governor, a letter I received from Mr Cartwright, yesterday two Depositions, have been taken before Him, of aggressions, on the part of The American Collector of Sacket's Harbour towards one of His Majesty's Subjects within the limits of The Kings Territory.

Mr. Cartwright intends writing His Excellency stating his Reasons for apprehending, That something more, than putting in force the Embargo, causes at this late Season of the year, when most of the Produce has been exported, so great a number of Regular Troops, to be assembled on the American Frontier.

The idea of the Vessel now building at Oswego, which is to carry 18 Guns, with a 24 Pounder in the Bow, instead of employing armed Boats, for The purpose of preventing Smuggling appears to me so ridiculous in itself That it requires no great foresight to see through the Object of these intentions.

May I request you to have the goodness to mention to the Lieut. Governor The very small Garrison I have at present here with The responsibility attach'd to it—I humbly conceive there ought to be one Serjeant and twelve Privates at least, stationed at Point Frederick, where His Majesty's Stores are situated, and the King's Vessels Winter, where at present there is only a Guard of one Corporal and three Privates (one Sentry) which is all I can spare from the few men I have at this Post, The Stores are some way detach'd from one another, and might be set on fire, by a few determined Incendiaries some dark night!

May I also beg leave to remark, That The Duke of Kents being moved out during the Winter, as she was last year, can in my opinion serve no end, as to The security of The Stores and Shipping, so long as there may be a probability of Point Clarence being occupied by the Americans, which it is natural they will attempt to take possession of, in The event of a War with them.

The general opinion of the better informed and respectable Settlers on The American Frontier in our Neighborhood, is I believe from good authority, That the Person at the Head of The American Government is much inclined to make or have some plea to bring on a Rupture with Great Britain—I have hitherto, not given much into this opinion, but later events wear such a complexion as almost do away my former Ideas on the subject, whether we are to have Peace or War.

52

I have transmitted a copy of Mr Cartwright's letter to me of yesterday, for the perusal of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces:

(Signed) H. Mackenzie Capt 41st Regt & Major Commg.

A true Extract Wm. Hatton Secretary

[C 673-p 142.]

LIEUT. GOV. GORE TO BISHOP PLESSIS

(*Indians*)

York 28th January 1809.

Sir ,

It would afford me real pleasure to be enabled to comply immediately with your request to appoint the Revd. Mr. Marchand1 of Sandwich an Indian Missionary in this Province, having on my visit last summer, to the Western District had every reason to subscribe to his merit & good conduct.

1 Father Jean Caliste Marchand, missionary; afterward vicar general of the diocese of Quebec.

I shall lose no time in applying to His Excellency Sir James Craig, to sanction the appointment of Mr. Marchand to be a missionary to the Western Indians, in the room of the Reverend Mr. Burke, who now resides in Nova Scotia.

I beg you will be assured that it will, at all times be a matter of high gratification to me to attend to your recommendations.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient humble Servant (Signed) Francis Gore Lt. Governor

Monsieur Plessis Catholic Bishop of Quebec.

[C 256-p 8.]

53

LIEUT. GOV. GORE TO SIR JAMES CRAIG

(*Relations with United States*)

York 20th Feb 1809

Sir

I had the honor on the 16th Instant to receive your Excellency's Letter of the 24th of January, accompanied by a copy of a dispatch from Mr. Erskine of the 4th of that month, and a letter of the 26th from Lieutenant Colonel Thornton.

I had anticipated the Intelligence from Washington, from the Debates in Congress, where the Partisans of the American Administration, hold Language of the same tenor, with Mr. Maddison's1 declaration to Mr. Erskine, and where the measures they are pursuing, have evidently a view of War.—In this event the Post of Amherstburg, will in all probability be the first object of attack—The American Regular Force at Detroit, is already more considerable, than in any other Point of their Frontier, and may be easily Augmented from the Ohio, and Tenessee Country, and the effect their success would have upon the Indians, would be a powerful inducement to them to make the attempt.

1 James Madison. 1751–1836. Fourth president of the U. S. Secretary of state, 1801–1809, date of above letter. Elected president 1808; re-elected 1812, and prosecuted the war with Great Britain.

My information from those who are well acquainted with the disposition of the Indians, leads me to believe that we Cannot rely on their Co-operation unless a very considerable additional Regular Force, be sent to that part of the Country.—Captain Elliott the superintendent, is convinced that with one Regular Regiment, the American Post of Detroit, and the Country between it, and the Ohio wou'd soon be in our possession—and the Indians become our active friends, numbers of whom would then be at liberty to give their Aid in any other part that may be threatened. These are Captain Elliotts sentiments which I conceive Your Excellency ought to be in possession of, at the same time, my private opinion is, That he is too sanguine in his hopes of Indian Assistance!

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellencys Most obedt & Most humble Servt Francis Gore Lt. Governor

Library of Congress

His Excellency General Sir James Craig K B &c. &c. &c

[C 676-p. 58.]

REPORT OF LIEUT. COL. BRUYERES1

1 See appendix.

Quebec 24th August 1811

REPORT OF THE STATE OF THE FORTIFIED MILITARY POSTS IN BOTH THE CANADAS

Fort Amherstburg. Situated on the East Bank of the River Detroit at the Head of Lake Erie. Is a square Field work consisting of four small Bastions faced with framed Timber, and Plank very much decayed, and out of repair. The Bastions are connected with a Line of Picketting similar to Fort George in bad repair, and cannot be considered as capable of any Defence. The Troops are lodged within the Fort in a large Block House that contains quarters for about three officers and 80 men. The Magazine is a Stone Building, Arched but not Bomb Proof. There are two small detached Block Houses constructed as a protection to the Marine Arsenal, they are occupied as Officers Quarters and are contiguous to the Navy Yard.

Fort St Joseph. Situated on the South point of the Island St. Joseph at the entrance to the River forming the communication between Lake Huron and Lake Superior; it is about 322 miles from Fort Amherstburg; and the most distant Military Post in Upper Canada. It is a square consisting merely of High Cedar Pickets to enclose the Block House and public Buildings the whole in bad repair and incapable of any defence.

R. H. Bruyeres , Lt. Col. Comg. Rl. Eng.

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[Freer papers-1811.]

55

MAJ. GEN. GLASGOW TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

REPORT OF THE STATE OF THE MAGAZINES, STORE HOUSES, PLATFORMS, CARRIAGES, ORDNANCE AND STORES, IN CHARGE OF THE FIELD TRAIN DEPARTMENT IN CANADA, UNDER THE SUPERINTENDENCE OF THE COMMANDING OFFICERS OF ARTILLERY

Quebec 18 th Sep t . 1811.

At Amherstburg the Garrison Ordnance consist of one 18 Pounder five 9 P rs four six Pounders for Field Service with their proportion of Ammunition and Stores fit for Service.

Amherstburg being a Naval Depot, the Ordnance, Ammunition and Stores of that Department, when not on Board the Vessels, are in Charge of the Ordnance Clerk of Stores.

A Subaltern of Artillery one Corporal and eleven Gunners are stationed at Amherstburg.

At St Josephs there are four iron Iron 6 Pounders and six ½ P r swivels with a small proportion of Ammunition. The Ammunition and Stores are kept in a Stone Building, arched but not Bomb Proof.

The Magazine at Amherstburg is cracked all through and not Bomb proof; the Store houses are of wood and insufficient to contain the Stores and which from necessity are Lodged with Stores of other Departments.

In the present Situation of the Posts of Upper Canada, there is not one Situation that can be considered safe as a Depot. The works are faced and lined with wood, the Bastions

connected by palisades. The Buildings are of Wood, liable at all times to accident by fire; and within the power of an Enemy to be burnt, whenever He chose to undertake it.

56

A Depot at a distance from the Frontier is much wanted. Where the Powder, Ammunition, Field Pieces, Small Arms and Naval Stores, not immediately wanted, might be kept in more safety and where an establishment might be formed, for making and repairing Carriages and other Purposes essential to the Service.

York seems to present a Situation well adapted for such a Purpose.

George Glasgow Maj. Gen. Comg. R l Artillery.

His Excellency Lt. Genl. Sir George Prevost Commanding the Forces &c. &c. &c.

[Freer papers-1811.]

FROM MAJOR GENERAL BROCK—UNADDRESSED

(*Relations with United States*)

York Upper Canada Decr. 2d 1811

Sir ,

The information Contained in the Message of the President to Congress relative to the existing differences between England and the United States will justify, I presume to think, the adoption of such precautionary measures, as may be necessary to meet all future Exigencies. Under this impression I beg leave to submit to Your Excellency, such observations as occur to me, to enable you, to form a correct judgment of the actual state of this Province.

The Military Force which heretofore occupied the Frontier Posts being so inadequate to their defence, a general opinion obtained, that no opposition in the event of hostilities, was intended. The late increase of amunition, and every species of stores, the substitution of a strong Regiment, and the appointment of a Military Person to administer the Government, have tended to infuse other sentiments among the most reflecting part of the community, and I feel happy in being able to assure Your Excellency, that during my visit last week to Niagara, I received the most satisfactory professions of a determination on the part of the principal inhabitants to exert every means in their power, in the defence of their property and support of the Government. They look with Confidence to Your Excellency for such additional aid as may be necessary in conjunction with the Militia, to repel 57 any hostile attempt against this Province. I shall beg leave to refer Your Excellency to the Communications of Lieutenant Governor Gore with Sir James Craig (as per margin) for a correct view of the temper and composition of the Militia and Indians, and althou' perfectly aware of the number of improper characters who have obtained extensive possessions, and whose 1st decbr 1807 5 Jany 1808 20th Feb. 1809, the latter enclosing an extract from correspondence with Lt. Col. Grant 41st Regt. dated Amherstburg 5th Jany 1808 principles diffuse a spirit of insubordination very adverse to all Military institutions, yet I feel confident a large majority will prove faithful.—It is however Certain that the best policy to be persued, should future circumstances call for active preparations will be to act with the utmost liberality, and as if no mistrust existed. For unless the inhabitants give an Active and efficient Aid, it will be utterly impossible for the very limited number of the Military who are likely to be employed, to preserve the Province.

The first point to which I am anxious to call Your Excellencys attention, is the District of Amherstburg. I consider it the most important, and if supplied with the means of commencing active operations, must deter the Americans from any offensive attempt from Niagara westward.

That Government will be compelled to secure their western frontier from the inroads of the Indians, and this cannot be effected without a very considerable force.—But before we can expect an active cooperation on the part of the Indians, the reduction of Detroit and Michilimackinac, must convince that People (who consider themselves to have been sacrificed to our policy in the year 1794P that we are earnestly engaged in the war.—The Indians, I am given to understand, are eager for an opportunity to avenge the Numerous injuries of which they complain.—A few Tribes at the Instigation of a shawanese of no note, have already (altho' implicitly told not to look for assistance from us) commenced the contest;—The stand which they continue to make on the Wabash against about two thousand Regulars and Militia, is a strong proof the strong force, which a general combination of the Indians will render necessary to protect so widely extended a Frontier. —The Garrisons of Detroit and Michilimackinac do not I believe exceed seventy Rank and file each, but the former can be easily reinforced by the Militia in the neighbourhood, which tho' not numerous, would be ample for its defence, unless assailed by a force, much superior to any we can now command.— 8

P Note— *Miamis affair*.

58 The Americans would draw their principal force either for defence or attack from the Ohio, an enterprizing hardy race and uncommonly expert on Horseback with the Rifle.— This species of force is formadable to the Indians, altho' according to reports, which have reached me by different Channels, (but none officially) they lately repelled an attack of some magnitude. Unles a diversion such as I have suggested, be made, an overwhelming force will probably be directed against this part of the Province. The measure will however be attended with a heavy expense, especially in the Article of provisions for not only the Indians who take the field, but also their families, must be maintained. The numeral force of the Militia in the Vicinity of Amherstburg exceeds by a trifle seven hundred Rank & file, Consequently very little assistance can be derived from that source in any offensive operation, should therefore the aspect of affairs hereafter give stronger indications of a rupture, I propose Augmenting the Garrison of Amherstburg with two hundred Rank &

file from Fort George and York. Such a measure I consider essentially necessary were it only calculated to rouse the energy of both Militia and Indians, who are now impressed with a firm belief that in the event of a war, they are to be left to their fate.—Great pains have been taken to instil this idea into the minds of the Indians, and no stronger Argument could be employed, than the weak state of the Garrison.—The army now assembled on the Wabash, with the ostensible view of opposing the shawanese Indian, is a strong additional motive in my mind, in support of the measure, for I have no doubt but the Instant their service in the field terminates a large portion of the Regulars will be detached to strengthen the Garrison at Detroit.—I have prepared Coln Proctor for such an event and after weighing the inconvenience, to which the service would be exposed, if the district were placed under a Militia Colonel, (an event obvious Unless superseded by a regular officer of equal rank) I have directed Lieut. Col. St George1 to be in readiness to Repair to Amherstburg and assume the Command. I entertain a high opinion of this officer, and make no doubt that his intelligence and conciliatory disposition will greatly promote the service—At any rate I am without a choice, and hope his situation of Inspector of Militia, will not be considered a bar to the arrangement.—The state of the roads will probably stop this projected movement until the latter end of this month or beginning of next, nor do I intend that the Troops should leave their present Quarters, unless urged by fresh circumstances. I therefore look to receive Your Excellency's Commands, previous to their departure.

1 See appendix.

From Amherstburg to Fort Erie my chief dependence must rest on a naval Force, for the protection of that extensive Coast. But considering the state to which it is reduced, extraordinary exertions and great expense 59 will be required before it can be rendered efficient. At present it only consists of a ship and a small Schooner, the latter of a bad construction, old, and in want of many repairs, yet she is the only King's Vessel able to Navigate Lake Huron, whilst the Americans have a Sloop and a fine Brig Capable of carrying twelve Guns, and in perfect readiness for any service; If consequently the

garrison of St. Joseph's is to be maintained, and an attack on Michilimackinac undertaken, it will be expedient to hire or purchase from the Merchants, as many vessels as may be necessary for the purpose. The Americans Can resort to the same means, and the Construction and number of their vessels for trade will give them great advantage—besides their small craft or boats, in which Troops Could be easily transported across the waters, exceed ours considerably, indeed we have very few of that description. I therefore leave it to Your Excellency's Superior Judgment to determine, whether a sufficient number of Gun boats for both Lakes so constructed as to draw little water, ought not to be added to our means of defence and offence.—It is worthy of remark that the only American National vessel on Lake Ontario built two Years ago, and now laying in Sackets Harbour, has remained without seamen until within the last fortnight when the Officers began to enter men as fast as possible.—A Lieutenant with a party came to Buffalo (a tolerable large Village oppose Fort Erie) and procured several hands, but not satisfied, a petty officer was sent to our side to inveigle others, The Magistrates hearing of this, sent to have him apprehended but he with difficulty escaped.—The strait between Niagara and Fort Erie is that which in all probability will be chosen for their main body to penetrate with a view to conquest.—All other attacks will be subordinate, or merely made to divert our attention.

About 3,000 Militia could upon an emergency be drawn to that line, and nearly five hundred Indians could likewise be collected, therefore what with the Regulars no trifling force could hope for success provided a determined resistance was made, but I cannot hide from Your Excellency, that unless a strong Military force be present, to Animate the Loyal, and controul the disaffected, nothing effectual can be expected.—A protracted resistance upon this Frontier will be sure to embarrass their plans materially. They will not come prepared to meet it, and their Troops, or volunteer Corps, without scarcely any discipline (as far at least as controul is in question) will soon tire under disappointment—The difficulty which they will experience in providing provisions, will involve them into expenses under which their Government will soon become impatient.—The car Brigade

will be particularly useful in obstructing their passage, and I cannot be too 60 urgent in soliciting the means, both as to Gunners, and Drivers, and likewise as to Horses to render the one at Fort George complete for service. A small body of Cavalry would be absolutely necessary, & I have already offers from many respectable Young men, to form themselves into a Troop,—all they seem to require are swords and pistols, which the stores below may probably be able to furnish. The situation of Kingston is so very important in every Military point of view, that I cannot be too earnest in drawing Your Excellency's attention to that Quarter.—The Militia from the Bay of Quinte down to Glengarry is the most respectable of any in the Province—Among the officers, several are on half pay who still retain a sound military spirit. Those from the Bay of Quinte would be properly stationed at Kingston, but all downwards would naturally desire to be employed to resist any predatory excursions to which their property would be so much exposed from the opposite shore. I have besides been always of opinion that a strong detachment would follow the route of Lord Amherst, and attempt to enter the Province by Oswagatchie, the Militia on the whole of that communication cannot therefore be more usefully employed than in watching such a movement, and should the Enemy direct the whole of his force by St. John's the greater part can with the utmost facility join the Army acting upon that Frontier.

The Militia Act, which I have the honour to transmit, provides for such emergency, and Your Excellency will readily observe among many wise and salutary provisions, but few means of enforceing them.

No exertions however shall be wanting in my Civil Capacity,1 to place that body upon a respectable footing. Mr. Cartwright the senior Militia Colonel at Kingston possesses the influence to which his firm character, and superior abilities so deservedly entitle him, but as I cannot possibly give the necessary attention to so distant an object, and as a regular officer will be indispensible to direct the operations, one of high rank ought if possible to be nominated to that command.

1 Gen. Brock had been appointed lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada for the better management of public affairs, an important matter being the organization of the militia.

So much will remain to be done, and such high expenses to be incurred, in the Quarter Master General's department that I cannot be too earnest with Your Excellency in requesting that an officer equal to the Situation may be appointed.—A head to the Commissariat will likewise be indispensible.—

I have trespassed greatly on Your Excellency's time, but I beg to be permitted to entreat Your Excellency to honour me with such advice and 61 Counsel as Your Experience may suggest, and be assured my utmost pride will be to meet your views, and merit your approbation

I have the honor to be with the highest respect Your Excellency's Most obedt & very humble servant Isaac Brock M. G.

[B 673-p. 171.]

UNADDRESSED AND WITHOUT SIGNATURE OR DATE1

(*War—1812*)

1 Letter apparently of American origin; possibly among the spoils when Detroit was captured, August 16, 1812. The writer had a clear view of the situation, and expressed sound conclusions.

The prompt measures you have adopted for the protection of Detroit and the other settlements in the Territory of Michigan inspire me with confidence that such ulterior arrangements will be made as the peculiar situation of that Country, and the state of things may require.—

It is unnecessary to state, that the people of that Territory being a part of the U. S. are entitled to protection. How far the measures already adopted will affect that object is worthy of consideration—I highly approve of them as incipient measures.—

Three things have been done—

1st Officers of the Company have been appointed with orders to enlist a Company in the Territory.—

2d The Secretary acting as Governor has been authorized to make a Detachment of Four Companies of Militia and call them into actual Service.

3rd The Commanding officer of Fort Detroit has been directed to erect Batteries on the Bank of the River Detroit for the protection of the Town. While I was very much gratified with the decisive manner in which these measures were adopted it must be apparent they only organize and prepare for action the physical powers already in the Country.—By comparing that power with the power which may be opposed to it, will evince the necessity of an additional Force, if the country is worth preserving.—

In the Fort at Detroit, I understand by the last returns there are less than one hundred men—The Population of the Territory is less than 5,000.—The principal part of this Population is of the Canadian Character, who have been in the habit of changing their Allegiance, and whos attachment to our country cannot be presumed to be as strong as the native sons of the States—Wishing however to give them all the Credit to which they are entitled, 62 titled, I should expect in any event of things, they would not be unfaithful to the Government to which they now belong, especially as they have received, not only Justice, but very great liberality.—It appears then, there about One hundred Regulars in the Fort of Detroit, and about 5,000 Inhabitants of the description I have given, in the Territory connected with the Post of Detroit & and 300 Miles North is the Island of Michillmackinac, where is a Post, Garrisoned by a Company of Regulars. Near the South

side of Lake Michigan, on the westerly side is Fort Chicago, likewise Garrisoned by a Company of Regulars.—

This is all the force on which we can calculate for the safety of this Northern Frontier, and for the protection of the Indians, which the U. S. are bound by Treaties to afford no support can be derived from the Indian Nation, even in the event of War, because our officers are instructed to advise them to remain neutral, and not to accept their Services, if they should be offered.—

It will be understood that this Statement is made under the Idea of war with Great Britain.—

I will now consider the British Force opposed to this part of the United States.—

1st A post at Amherstburg, at the Mouth of the Detroit River, Garrisoned by about one hundred British Troops.—

2nd Another Post on the Island of St Joseph's at the Mouth of the River St Mary's Garrisoned by about 50 British Troops.—

3rd Two armed ships on Lake Erie, which command the Waters, and could prevent all communication from the States through that Channel.

4th A population of 40, or 50 thousand Inhabitants in that part of Upper Canada which is connected with the Detroit River, and could easily be brought to operate against one settlement.—

5th. About Four Thousand men employed in the Indian Trade, all under British Influence.

6th All the Indians in Upper Canada, and, probably a large portion of those who reside in the United States, Will probably join the British Standard in the event of War.

It will appear from this statement, that the British Force which can be brought to operate against in the Territory, is more than Ten to One.—

It requires no reasoning to determine what must be the consequence—That part of the United States must fall into the Hands of the British Government, with all the Inhabitants, The Forts at Chicago Michillimackinac and Detroit, and all the Public and Private Vessels on the Lake.—

This will give them the entire Command of all the Country North and North West of the Miami—of Lake Erie and the scattered Settlements on 63 the West part of the State of Ohio will be subject to the Depredations of the powerful Northern Nations of Savages. There is nothing in my opinion (in the event of war) can prevent this state of things, but an adequate Force on the Detroit River, opposite to the Settlements in Upper Canada.

It may be asked how this Force is to be placed there and how is it to be Supported. If, Sir, we cannot command the Ocean, We can Command the Inland Lakes of our Country, This we ought to do—but if there is no intention of building a Naval Force on the Lakes, superior to the British, that Communication must be abandoned until we take possession of the Canadas.—

The Army which marches into the Country must open Roads thro' the Wilderness, And the Supplies of Provisions &c must pass by Land from the State of Ohio.—

If then the Conquest of Ohio is your object you will have an Army in a proper Situation to commence the operations and will have all the Indians living within the Territory of the U. S. under your Control.—

The answer probably will be—It is better to leave this Country to its fate, and march an army and take possession of Montreal. This will prevent all communications, by the St

Lawrence, with Upper Canada, and it must of course surrender. In this expectation I presume there will be a disipointment—Upper Canad and the Michigan.

DECLARATION OF WAR—CAMPAIGN OF 1812

COLONEL ELLIOT1 TO MAJOR GENERAL BROCK

1 See appendix.

(*Provincial Marine*)

Amherstburgh 11th January 1812

Sir

The day before yesterday I was honored with your letter of the 24th ulto and now proceed to answer some points on which you want information, deferring the other parts until I have procured further information, and procure a plan of Detroit, which I expected to do before I set off for York, which will be in the course of a few days; From a gentleman of veracity and a keen observer, who was at Detroit last October, and saw the Fort and Guns, I am informed that they have twenty 24 pounders, many of which were mounted, besides four Twelves.—one ten Inch. Two 8 inch Howetzers—Four 4½ inch Royals—six mortars of different Calibres, and two Travelling Forges for heating shot: and for the Militia, Four Field 6 pounders, with field equipage complete.

Another very intelligent Gentleman, has given me the following list of vessels and their Tonnage.

Brig Adams 14 guns—about the size of the old Camden on the stocks 4 miles up the river Rouge, repairing

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Schooner Amelia 70 Tons at Presque Isle or Black Rock

do Selina 80 “ at Detroit wharf

do Nancy 90 “ Black Rock or Presque Isle

Sloop Contractor 60 “ do do

With five or six small craft, names unknown— —British Merchant Vessels—

Nancy, about 100 Tons, owners. N. W. Comp y laying at Mackintoshs wharf opposite Detroit

Caledonia 70 Tons. owners N. W. Comp y.

Eleanor 50 “ “ R d Pattinson

Thames 80 “ in bad repair, owners Innes & McGregor

The two last are at Sandwich Wharf

The Dover,1 about 20 Tons—in the river Thames

1 Burned by the Americans; see vol. xiii, p. 599, Mich. P. H. Coll.

I can add nothing more to my opinion respecting the attack upon Detroit, to what I submitted to Colonel Claus in my letter in your possession—That Fort once taken, we would have nothing to dread, and we could open communication with the Indians.

I find from authority I cannot doubt, that Detroit is garrisoned by 50 Infantry and the same number of Artillery.

The three essentials you call my attention to, I beg leave to assure your honor, have guided my conduct since I have had the superintendence of the Post.

As I shall be at York in the course of a short time, permit me to defer saying more at present on the different subjects which your letter embraces.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient Humble servant (Signed) M. Elliott , S. I. D2

2 The initials stand for storekeeper, Indian department.

Major General Brock President Administering the Government & & & York

[C 728-p 61.]

65

Memorandum to be submitted to His Excellency the Govr in Chief by desire of Major Genl. Brock.—

To reinforce the 41st by sending up their recruits, and to send the Regiment to Amherstburg, together with 50 Artillery.

To send ordnance suited to the Reduction of Detroit (4 to 6 eight Inch Mortars).

To explain the nature of the offensive operations proposed in that quarter

Militia on the Detroit side 300 men mostly Canadians. Kentucky Population 400,000 souls. Amherstburg population furnishes 700 Militia. Indians in the vicinity from 2 to 3000,—at the Grand River1 2 to 300.

1 He refers to the Grand River in Ontario.

To send the 49th or some other effective Regt to the Niagara frontiers with a proportion of Artillery.

To send a Regiment to Kingston together with a Detacht of Artillery.

To send an officer of Rank to Kingston to take charge of that Frontier.

It is proposed to select from the Militia 2 Companies from each Regt as flank Companies which will produce as Volunteers about 1800 men.

It is proposed to raise Corps of Volunteers which may produce 1200 men.

To lay up the ships next winter at York and by degrees remove the Naval Yard.

To provide materials for ten more batteaux at Kingston and at Amherstburg.

To build one Gun Boat as an Experiment at Long Point.

To send Plans of the Quebec Boats to York. The Gun to unship and lie in the hold in bad weather.

To Fortify the Harbour of Amherstburg. The Cooperation of the N. West and S. West companies—To take the Post of Michilimackinac, and remove St. Josephs to it.

A small work to protect the anchorage of Vessels at Long Point, and to have 6 Gun Boats at Do if the Plan succeeds.

The cooperation of the Indians will be attended with great expense in presents provisions &c.

To send a person from Kingston to Reconnitre Sacketts Harbour, and to send from Niagara to examine the Harbours and 66 Country on the south shore of Lake Ontario to see what preparation and if among the Merchant vessels,

Captain Gilkinson at Prescott.

To enquire if he will take a Naval Command.

Captain Fish to Command the new schooner to be built at York.

To superanuate Commodore Grant and appoint Lieut. Hall senior officer.

L. Barwis to command the new schooner

2d Lieut Rollette to be appointed first and to command the Hunter

To superanuate Commodore Steele, and appoint Captain Earle senior officer and to command the Royal George.

To appoint

and to command the Moira.

To mount 6. 24 pr Canonades on Field Carriages to be used as occasion may require.

To send two Companies of the Newfoundland Regiment to act as seamen and marines.

To Augment the establishment by sending an addition of 100 seamen to the Lakes.

To purchase all the Cordage from Capt. Mills at Amherstburg as this tends greatly to promote the growth of hemp.

To submit the Memo ° from Lieuts Dewar & Hall

Library of Congress

[C 728-p 68.]

COL. ELLIOTT TO MAJ. GEN. BROCK

(*Indians*)

Amherstburg , 12th January 1812

Sir

I have the honor to inform you, that just as I had finished writing you yesterday, a Kikapoo Chief who was in the action on the Wabache arrived here and reports that without having sent any previous message, Governor Harrison1 advanced from his Fort against the Indians with intention of surrounding the Village on all sides, that none might escape if they proved refractory.—

1 See appendix.

He completely surrounded it on the land side, and attempted it by the River, but the Indians boldly ordered him to desist, or it would not go well with him. He then asked where he could camp, and was told “Wherever 67 he pleased except around their village”—All this time the officers and Cavalry had their swords ready drawn and the Infantry were drawn up ready to fire upon them.—

He however retreated about a quarter of a mile over a little rising ground and camped by a small rivulet; but before he retreated the Indians took a negro and threatened to put him to death if he did not inform them of the Governors intention.

The negro informed them that he intended to deceive them, and they let him go. And the Governor after he had encamped sent the same negro back to them to desire them to

sleep sound and be at ease, and not approach his sentinels lest they should be shot, and that he would not allow any of his people go near them.—

The Indians however had their piquets to prevent surprise and often, during the night ordered the American spies to retire from their posts, without doing them any injury. Two young Winibiegoes no doubt out of curiosity (for it appears the Indians had no intention to attack, but to defend themselves if attacked) went near some of the American Sentinals and were shot at, and fell as wounded men, but on the Sentinals coming up to despatch them they arose and tomahawked them.—

This insult roused the indignation of the Indians and they determined to be revenged and accordingly commenced the attack at cock crowing. They had the Americans between two fires, driven by the Winibiegoes, they were received by the Kikapoos, alternately until about 9 o'clock when the Indians gave way for want of arrows and amunition. It appears that not above one hundred Indians fired a shot, the grater part being engaged in plundering and conveying of horses.

The women and children, saved themselves by crossing the River during the engagement. —

The Americans burned the Prophets village and all the corn of the Shawanaes, but the Kikpoos saved theirs by having it previously burried.— Twenty five Indians only are killed, the Kikpoo does not know the number of Americans killed, but he says their loss must have been considerable not less than one hundred.1 —

1 See appendix.

The Prophet and his people do not appear as a vanquished enemy; they reoccupy their former ground.—

From this mans report, the Chiefs of these Tribes have determined to come here only in the Spring to make a demand of Amunition and Arms.—

The Prophets brother, who went to the Southward in Winter 1810–11 is reported by this man to be on his return and has reached the farthest Kikpoo Town, and is there in Council with the different Nations—He 68 passed Vincennes on his way home, and met the Army of Governor Harrison retreating, but no insult was offered to him or his few friends who accompanied him.—

When the messenger I sent, returns, I no doubt will receive further intelligence respecting the views of the Indians—I will lose no time in transmitting it to you—or perhaps be the bearer of it myself.—

The following is an account of the numbers of the different Nations killed in the action viz:

Kikpoos 9

Winibiegoes 6

Potewatemies 4

Ottawas 3

Creeks 2

Shawanaes 1

25

from the manner in which the Kikpoo relates his story I sincerely believe his accounts to be correct.—

I have the honor to be Your Honor's most obedient & most humble Servant M. Elliott . S. I. A.

P. S. The Indian Forces consisted of from 250 to 300 and not more than 100 were ever engaged.

To His Honor Major General Brock President Administering the Government York.—

[C 728-p 62.]

MEMORANDA

(*War—1812*)

Memoranda —from the Agents of the North West Company for the information of Capt Gray.—

The N. W. Co have on Lake Superior 1 Vessel of 120 Tons—could be armed with 6 @ 8 Guns—also 1 of 60 Tons which might be run down the Falls of St Marys to be made use of on the Lakes Huron and Michigan. They have also 2 Vessels at Moy Sandwich viz the *Caledonia* and *Nancy* each from 100 @ 120 Tons, and each carrying 4 Guns.—

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25 Canoes will start from La Chine the first week in May for Lake Superior—having on board 3 Agents Viz Messrs Shaw McLeod and McKenzie—9 clerks, 10 Guides and 300 Men or Engages to be at the Entrance of the French River about the 20th to 25th May—at St Marys 1st @ 4th June, and at Fort William on the N. W. part of Lake Superior about 22d @ 25th June.

To assemble at St Mary's for the purpose of taking down the Companys property to Montreal about the latter end of August, or early in September in 30 @ 40 canoes viz—3

agents—2 proprietors—8 clerks—10 Guides—250 men or Engages—also if required, as many Indians as the Company have influence over in that quarter, say from 300 @ 500—

The Agents of the N. W. Co. beg leave to observe that they will on all occasions be ready not only to protect their own property, but to exert all the influence they possess over the Canadians and Indians to induce them to follow their example—at the same time they take this opportunity of expressing their gratitude to his Excellency for having taken the means necessary for the protection of the Fur Trade with such early consideration.

Montreal 13th Jany 1812

The above was furnished by the Agents of the N. West Company at my request

A. Gray Actg Depy Qr Mr Genl.

[C 676-p 76.]

MEMORANDUM

(*War—1812*)

Memorandum respecting Indians and other persons inhabiting the Post, in the Indian Country where the Michilimackinac Company trade, who in the event of a War between Great Britain and America could be depended upon to join the British at the Island of St Joseph Lake Huron at a short notice in the Spring.

One Hundred whites English and Canadians and about three Hundred Indians.

The other Indians throughout the Country where the Company trade are all dissatisfied with the American Government and would in my opinion be glad of a good opportunity to Commence Hostilities against them.1

1 Indians being inflamed by war stories. The fur company's trade went beyond the Mississippi.

Montreal 13th January 1812

H. Lothier Agent for Michilimackinac Compy.

[C 676-p 78.]

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MR. GRAY TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*Military Defences*)

Montreal 13th January 1812

Dear Sir

I have now made myself acquainted with the various objects connected with my journey, and shall state for your Excellency's information (as briefly as the nature of the subjects will admit of) all I have been enabled to Collect at this Post.

The first object I turned my attention to was the Military Stores in the possession of the Commissariat and Qu r M r Gen 1s Departments. The result of that inquiry is contained in the enclosed Returns, signed by Mr Clark. The 1 st Page is a return of Batteaux with their stores and Camp Equipage. The 2 d & 3 d pages contain Returns and Estimates required from Mr Clark for your Excellency's information, in consequence of a statement made by him on the subject of Building new Batteaux—He says that he has been in the habit of keeping in store, in time of war, Materials for Building 100 Batteaux, with the necessary stores and equipments for the same number. His reasons for recommending this measure are of considerable weight. He says that if the stores are provided in this manner he can build the Batteaux when required at the rate of one day, and that from the wood having

been seasoned they may be relied upon—Another reason he assigns is the difficulty there is of procuring those Materials when wanted, particularly the Cedar knees.

If your Excellency does not judge it necessary to go to the extent Mr Clark recommends, a part of it might be recommended. If the Articles Contained in Estimate Page 2 (£110. 2. 4½) were provided, and the Cedar Knees Page 3 (£50. 19) purchased, and the Oakum sent from Quebec, I should think Mr. Clark would find no difficulty in procuring the timber at any time. It is however proper to state Mr. Clarkes opinion, so that Your Excellency may be the better enabled to decide. Major Davies has but one Batteaux in his charge. The total number of Batteaux at Montreal, LaChine, and William Henry, that can be depended upon, are 50, and these were all built in the year 1809. Those anticedent to that period are going rapidly to decay—

The next object I turned my attention to was the N. West Company. I have had several discussions with the heads of the Companies, for it appears there are two, one called the N. West, and another denominated the S. West, or the Michilimackinac Company—The result is in substance as follows—That the Heads of the Companies are exceedingly grateful to Your Excellency for taking an interest in the protection of their Trade, that they will enter with zeal into any measure of Defence, *or even offence* , that may 71 be proposed to them. To render this statement clear I must refer Your Excellency to Smiths map of Upper Canada. In the event of War the Route by Detroit and the River Sinclair must be abandoned, and that by York adopted. From York they will proceed by Lake Simcoe to Gloucester Bay, in Lake Huron, and along the North Shore of the Lake to the straits, or falls of St. Mary's, and from thence into Lake Superior. The only part of this Route that they feel any apprehension of being interrupted, or cut off by the Enemy, is upon Lake Huron. An Armament may be fitted out at Detroit to intercept them in their return from the N. West (when their Cargoes are more valuable) It is therefore upon this line of Communication they will probably require our Support. It would appear from the information I have received that we might be enabled to afford them the requisite support from York, as the Communication from York to Lake Huron is much shorter than that from

Detroit to the tract proposed by the N. West. This is a point upon which I cannot speak with any degree of certainty at present, I merely submit such ideas as have arisen out of the Conversations I have had with the Gentlemen Concerned in the Trade. On Lake Superior they feel every way superior to the Americans, having the complete command of the Lake, and the Country on its banks—On tracing the Commun from thence downwards their first apprehensions are at the straits of St. Mary's, At this point the Enemy might cut them off, if some means are not taken to prevent it. Those means could be (according to their ideas) to remove the Garrison and Post of St. Joseph's up to the falls of St. Mary's where a very eligible position may be taken up, either upon one of the Islands in the straits, or upon the British side. That the Post of St. Josephs affords no protection whatever to their Trade, as it is upon a large Island, which has no command over the channel to the Right and left of it. That this change of Position of the Garrison, would enable them to concentrate their force upon Lake Superior at St. Marys' and combine their operations with our Troops. If the Enemy established himself upon any point in Lake Huron, they would Arm one of their Vessels (one of 60 Tons) and run her down the falls, and carry with them every man they could Muster Amounting to about 300 Voyageurs and as many Indians. This force they imagine combined with the disposable part of the Post of Regulars, acting in concert with the force that it might be possible to furnish them from York, would enable them to dislodge the enemy from any position he may take up upon the Lake and in short exclude him entirely from any participation in the navigation or Commerce of Lakes Superior, Huron and Michigan—To compleat this object effectually they have suggested the propriety, and practicability, of reducing Michillimackinack 72 (an American Post at the entrance of Michigan) This Post they describe as very weak, being Commanded with Pistol shot &c.—It is to be observed that the Theatre of action from the S. West Company is the Country on the Banks of Lake Michigan, and that of the N. West all the rest of the Wilderness, the Hudson Bay Companys settlements excepted.—There is an object that would tend materially to forward this branch of our Military System; that is forming the two companies into two Volunteer Corps, by giving the Heads, and confidential clerks commissions, according to an order of Rank that they might settle

among themselves, That is making the first person of each Compy Lieut Coln Commg and keeping a regular gradation downwards according to their influence and standing in the Compy. They express every wish to be useful in the common cause, and I am persuaded require only to be directed how to proceed, to become a formidable Body, which I will have the honor of explaining more fully when I return,—one great advantage that would result from Commissioning the officers of these Companies, would be the protection it would ensure them in the event of any of them falling into the hands of the enemy,—Without Coms they might be treated as free-booters, or plunderers. They have an impression of that kind upon their minds.—They have tendered all their vessels for the service of Govt if the Exigincies of the War should make it necessary to call for them.—In short they are full of Loyalty and Zeal, and manifest a degree of public spirit highly honorable to them. By means of these Companies, we might let loose the Indians upon them throughout the whole Extent of their Western frontier, as they have a most Commanding influence over them.1

1 Control of the fur trade was the object of the Northwest Company. They resented the competition of John Jacob Astor and the American fur company. Their “loyalty and zeal” was naturally enhanced by their business interests.

A. Gray

His Excellency Lieut Genl Sir Geo: Prevost. Bart

[C 676-p 79.]

FROM MR. GRAY—UNADDRESSED

(*Provincial Marine*)

York 29 th January 1812

Dear Sir

I arrived safe at this place on the evening of the 27 th and delivered the money I was entrusted with to Mr. Selby. The weather has been extremely unfavorable, having been exceedingly cold, or thawing. All the way from 7 Montreal to York. From Montreal to Kingston occupied 6 days, and from Kingston to York 5 days.

On my arrival at Kingston I inspected the state of the marine, and have the honor to communicate the following particulars for Your Excellency's information

The Royal George lays alongside the Wharf dismantled, and her rigging laid up in the sail loft, and reported to be all in good order, and in readiness to refit at the shortest notice. But it is a singular circumstance that they have as yet found no way of mounting the canonades sent up last summer to arm this, and the other vessels on the lakes. This difficulty arrised from the construction of the slide upon which the canonade is mounted. This is upon a new principal and is rather complicated, being of a nature not at all self evident as appears from the variety of opinions that prevail as to its object, and ability there ought therefore to have been a plan and description of the slide sent along with them. Major Fullor1 says in his justification that he has written to Quebec for information on this subject, but received no answer. I shall remove this difficulty on my return to Kingston.

1 See appendix.

Little is done to the Moira, further than preparing the materials, as they say they waited orders from Quebec as to lengthening her. There has not however been much time lost, as the weather has been very severe. I found upon examining the vessel that it would not be advisable to lengthen her; as notwithstanding the process of salting many of the timbers are rotten, and must be taken out, and what is at this moment of great importance, she could not be got ready in time if lengthened. One of the chief objects in lengthening

her was to increase her Battery; but this we can do to a certain extent without, as by new sparing the distance of the ports one gun may be added on each side. I have therefore ordered them to proceed immediately with the repairs, and have her ready to sail the moment the Lake is open, which they have promised shall be done.

There is every inducement to build the new Schooner at York, as exclusive of the agreement already added in favor of establishing the Naval Yard at this place, there are the following considerations which are of great importance at this moment—first they have as much to do at Kingston as they can get through with at present, in fitting out the Moira and mounting the Canonades etc it would therefore extend our resources in Ship Building. If we could at the same time carry on our work at both places. This would also have the effect of paving the way for the removal of the Marine Depot from Kingston to this place. A change greatly to be desired. The Toronto having been broken up here, furnishes an immediate supply of iron works, and a variety of other articles that may be worked up in the new Vessel, and 10 74 in addition to what may be supplied by this means, There is a considerable department of Naval Stores appropriated to what is termed the Sivil Service of the Province. This Store General Brock will use as the service may require. I have gone round the Harbor with the general, and have examined, as far as the season of the year would admit of it, the different places pointed out as favorable for building a Vessel, and find there will be no difficultly on that head. The General proposes putting the Superintendence of the work into the hands of the person who commanded the Toronto, who seems to be every way qualified for the task of Building, and commanding the new Schooner.

The officers serving in this Division of the Province are in some instances extremely inefficient, and in short, totally unfit for the situations they hold. particularly the Dy Asst. Qr. Mr. General and Several Naval Officers. The former Genl. Brock has it in contemplation to remove to York, as soon as Your Excellency has fixed upon a proper person to succeed him. This arrangement will be advantageous to Major Fullor, a circumstance which is not to be regretted, as there is nothing to be urged against him but his incapacity and

unfitness for the Situation he has unfortunately been placed in. The General has no officer here that he can recommend for the Situation. Nor does he know of more than one man in the Lower Province that he thinks is fit for it. The Gent n the General is Captain King of the Artillery. He speaks very favorably of this Gentleman and from what I have heard of his professional character and abilities from other sources I most readily unite—with the General in recommending him to your Excellency as a fit person to succeed Major Fullor. If this measure meets your Excellency's approbation, the sooner the appointment is made the better as there is great need of *a man of energy and one who can be trusted at Kingston* .

This subject I shall have the Honor of explaining more at large on my return.

Captn Steel, Senior Naval Officer, has sent in his resignation, praying to retire on full pay, which I hope may be granted him, as he has been almost half a centuary in the Service, and is now in his seventy fifth year. The next in rank to Captn Steel is Lieut Carle, commander of the Moira, who is an excellent seaman, and from all I can learn every way fit to succeed Captn Steel.

I speak from my own experience. As well as from the opinion entertained for him by General Brock and others who have sailed with him.

General Brock is likewise anxious to get rid of the old Commadore on Lake Earie. This Gentleman has likewise been above 50 years in the Service, and is 85 years of age. The next in Seniority is Lieut Hall, who is in 75 every respect a proper person to succeed Captn Grant. I have had the same opportunaties of attaining a knowledge of his character, and abilities, and Talents, that I had of Lt. Eastie and consider him in all respects equally deserving promotion.

These arrangements should they meet your Excellencies approbation General Brock conceives will enable him to accomplish every object connected with the Department as

far as those individuals are concerned, as he has a favorable opinion of Lieut Dewar, and thinks he will meet with support equal to his wishes on both Lakes.

I have communicated to General Brock an extract from the letter I had the honor to write your Excellency from Montreal, relative to the promotion of the protection of the Trade of the N. West and S. West Companies. The General most perfectly conceeds in the ideas submitted in that letter, and has dirrected me to communicate to you his anxious wish that the Post St Joseph might be removed to the Falls of St Mary. In short the Generals general policy, and Plan of defence agrees so exactly with the ideas I had formed previously to my communicating to him, that I can be at no loss in giving your Excellency every information on that head on my return, it may not be necessary therefore to enter more into objects at present. I propose remaining here till after the House of assembly has met, which will be about a week from this day.

I am induced to make this stay in order that I may obtain more accurate information on several points connected with our defences Etc as more of information will then be collected from all parts of the country, I shall also have an opportunity of seeing how they go on. I do not imagine my stay at Kingston need exceed 3 or 4 days, as by building the Schooner here the business of the Department at that Station is considerably diminished.

I have also the hope of meeting Lieut Dewar before my departure from here, as he has obtained leave to come to York, this will afford me the opportunity of giving him more ample instructions as to the duties of the Department, than I could by letter. There is likewise some interesting information received respecting Detroit which he and Coll Elliot (who is also expected) will be enabled to confirm.

It Seem the Americans are collecting a vast quantity of Ordinance at that Post, which with other indications, pretty clearly manifest their intentions in that Quarter.

The grant of land to the Glengary Reg is a subject upon which General Brock intends to write you as he fears this measure will create embarassment and a precedent which

cannot be followed up for want of lands to grant: and if not followed, there will not be a man got for the Service in future.

The General has an idea that Corps upon the principals contained in the 76 Sketch I brought him, might easily be procured for the Defence of our Frontiers, without any expectation of land being held out to them, and upon the whole he thinks it a bad precedent, and likely to produce discontent. The Genrl intends writing to your excellency, he however wishes me to mention the circumstance, which I accordingly do, without presuming to give an opinion.

I have dirrected the Kingston Paper to be regularly sent to the Castle. Mr. Cartwright of that Place is a startling character. This Gent n has, by every means in his power, promoted the prosperity of the country, and has on all occasions Stept forward in Support of the Govr. He intends publishing a series of letters in the Kingston Paper. The Signature *Falkland* .

We intend to let fly a drive official at them in the next York Gazette, as the Genrl thinks it may have a good effect on both sides. We have got a detailed account from the Prophet's Camp. He has gained a glorious victory. His Loss is 25 men. And his no actually engaged did not exceed 100. I have the honor to be Dear Sir

Your Excellencies most obedient and most humble Servant A. Gray 1

1 Capt. Gray was the acting deputy quartermaster general for Gen. Prevost, commander of the forces in Canada.

[C 728-p 77.]

MAJ. GEN. BROCK TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*Military Defences*)

York U. C. February 6 th 1812

Sir

I entered so fully in my dispatch, of the 3 d december into the state of the Province that I shall confine myself on this occasion to very few observations. The Primary object to which I am anxious to call the attention of Your Excellency is the inadequacy of the military force to the defence of the extended frontier. In making this representation, I am aware at this juncture of the necessity of limiting as low as possible the force to be employed on this service. The more information I receive the stronger I am impressed with the necessity of being formidable at Amherstburgh—were we in a condition to act offensively in that quarter the greatest good would be sure to result from it. The Indians in the vicinity would in that case willingly Co-operate with us, Their example would, if I am correctly informed, be soon followed by the numerous tribes living on the Missoury, 77 who are represented as very inveterate against the Americans. The greatest efforts are making at Detroit to put the Post in a complete state of defence, and I am persuaded it is already too strong to carry by assault,1 and without the aid of mortars anything we could do against it would probably be unavailing—They have there a large depot of ordance

1 Indicates that Brock early began figuring on the prospects at Detroit.

I have the honor to be Your Excellencys Mo: obt and humble servt Isaac Brock M. G

To His Excellency Lt General Sir George Prevost Bt Governor in chief &c &c &c

[C 676-p 86.]

MAJ. GEN. BROCK TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*Relations with United States*)

Fort George 2 Feby 20h 1812

2 A British post on the Niagara frontier, near Queenston.

Sir

My last to Your Excellency was dated the 12th Instant, since which nothing extraordinary has ocurred on this communication. The enemy has evidently diminished his force, and appears to have no intention of making an immediate attack.

I have herewith the honor of enclosing the copy of two letters which I have received from L Coln St George, together with some interesting documents found on board a schooner which the boats of the Hunter captured on her voyage from the Meamie to Detroit.

From the accompanying official correspondence between General Hull and the secretary at war it appears that the collected force which has arrived at Detroit amounts to about two thousand.

I have the honor &, &c Isaac Brock , M. G.

His Excellency Lt. Genl Sir George Prevost Bt &. &. &.

[C 676-p 203.]

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MAJ. GEN. BROCK TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*Relations with United States*)

York U. C . February 25th 1812

Sir

I cannot permit Colonel McDonell to go hence without giving Your Excellency a short account of our proceedings here. I had every reason to expect the almost unanimous support of the two branches of the Legislature to every measure Government thought necessary to recommend, but after a short trial found myself egregiously mistaken in my Calculations.

The many doubtful characters in the Militia made me very anxious to introduce the oath of aligenation, into the bill—there were twenty members in the house when this highly important measure was lost by the Casting voice of the chairman—The great influence which the bar and number of settlers from the United States possess over the decisions of the Lower House, is truly alarming and ought by every practical means to be diminished.

To give encouragement to real subjects to settle in this province can alone remove the evil. The consideration of the fees ought not to stand in the way of such a politic arrangement—

And should Your Excellency ultimately determine to promise some of the waste lands of the Crown to such Scotch emigrants as inlist in the Glengary Regiment,1 I have no hesitation in recommending in the strongest manner the raising of a Canadian Corps upon similar offers, to be hereafter disbanded and distributed among their Countrymen in the vicinity of Amherstburg, Colonell McDonell being in full possession of my sentiments on this subject, I beg leave to refer Your Excellency to him for further information.

1 The grant of lands to soldiers was a subject much considered at this time and later, in order to encourage enlistments.

The bill for the suspension of the Habias Corpus, I regret to say, was likewise lost by a very trifling majority, a strong sentiment now prevails that war is not likely to occur with the United States, which, I believe, tended to influence the votes of the members I mean of such, who, tho' honest, are, by their ignorance easily betrayed into error.

The low Ebb of their finances appears to stagger the most desperate democrats in the states, and may possibly delay the Commencement of direct hostilities. But should France and England continue the contest much longer it appears to me absolutely impossible for the United states to avoid making this election, and the unfriendly disposition they have for some years past evinced against England leaves little doubt as to their choice—Your Excellency, I am sensible, will Excuse the freedom with which I deliver my sentiments.

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Every day hostilities are retarded, the greater the difficulties we shall have to encounter. The Americans are at this moment busily employed in raising six companies of Rangers for the Express purpose of overawing the Indians, and are besides Collecting a regular force at Vincennes, probably with the view of re-enforcing Detroit, indeed report states the arrival of a large force at Fort Wane intended for the former Garrison—Their intrigues among the different tribes are carried on openly and with the utmost activity, and as no expense is spared, it may reasonably be supposed that they do not fail of success. Divisions are thus uninterruptedly sowed among our Indian friends, and the minds of many estranged from our interests—such must inevitably be the consequence of our present inert and neutral proceedings in regard to them.

It ill becomes me to determine how long true policy requires that the restrictions now imposed upon the Indian department ought to continue, but this I will venture to assert that each day the officers are restrained from interfering in the concerns of the Indians—each time they devise peace and withhold the accustomed supply of ammunition, their influence will diminish, till at length they lose it altogether. It then will become a question whether that country can be maintained.

I find that ever since the departure of Priest Burk from Sandwich the 50£ p. annum paid from the military chest to that Gentleman has been withheld—on what account I have not been able to ascertain. The person now in office is highly spoken of, and as several Gentlemen of the Catholic persuation have applied to me to intercede with

Your Excellency to renew the allowance, I presume to submit the case to your indulgent consideration.

I have the honor to be with the highest respect Your Excellency's Most faithful and Obedient servt Isaac Brock M. G.

To His Excellency Genl. Sir George Prevost Bt &c &c &c

[C 676-p 92.]

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UNADDRESSED AND WITHOUT SIGNATURE

(*Indians*)

27 Feb. 1812.

Sir ,

As it is probable that war may result from the present *state of affairs* , it is very desirable to ascertain the degree of cooperation that you and *your friends* might be able to furnish, in case of such an emergency taking place.

You will be pleased to report with all practicable expedition upon the following matters.

1st The number of your friends that might be depended upon.

2nd Their disposition towards us.

3rd Would they assemble and march under your order—

4th State the succours you require and the most eligible mode, for their conveyance.

5th Can *Equipments* be procured in *Your country*—

6th An immediate direct communication with you, is very much wished for.

7th Can you point out in what manner that object may be accomplished—

8th Send without loss of time a few *faithful* and very *confidential* agents, selected from *your friends*.

9th Will you individually approach the Detroit frontier next spring.

If so state the time & place where *we* may meet.

Memo. avoid mentioning names in your *written communications* .

I owe you acknowledgements for *two letters* .

Recollect to whom you promised to procure *shrubs & small trees* .1

1 A request for information, guarded in its terms to avoid compromising either party.

[C 256-p 209.]

UNADDRESSED AND WITHOUT SIGNATURE2

(*Indians*)

2 Apparently a reply to the foregoing, perhaps relating to tribes west of Lake Michigan.

June 18th 1812.

Queries contained in paper No. 1 answered.

No. 1 Answer. The number of my friends would have been more, but the unparalleled scarcity of provisions of all sorts has reduced them to 250 or 300 of all sorts of different languages.

2 Answer. All of the same disposition as the accompanying note will show.

3 — All ready to march when required under a proper person commissioned for that purpose.

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4 — An express to be sent to St. Joseph's on receipt of this, with Instructions, either by Indians or a Vessel—Provisions and all sorts of proper goods required.

Flags one doz large medals with gorgets and a few small ones.

5 — Equipments if timely notice is given, can be procured in this Country.

6 — The Bearer of this will inform you of this and other matters.

7 — As the Article above. No. 6.

8 — Your wishes are complied with on this head. 79 of their friends are left where this comes from.

9 — St. Joseph's will be the General Rendezvous and all our friends shall be there about the 30th Inst.

N. B. An expedition across to the Mississippi would be of great service and could be accomplished without much risk or difficulty. In the event of hostilities more full communication will shortly take place.

[C 256-p 211.]

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FROM LIEUT. COL. ST. GEORGE—UNADDRESSED

(*Commissariat*)

Amherstburg 9th March 1812

Sir ,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th febry and to state for the information of the Major General, that agreeably thereto, I directed the Assistant Commissary General to take immediate steps, to procure the quantity of corn required—The Asst Commissary accordingly employed two confidential persons to go to the River Raisin, and to Detroit, who have made every possible endeavor to obtain supplies, but without success—and the best informed persons are of opinion, that no Indian corn can be obtained from thence, as there is a great scarcity of that article on the American, as on the British side—The long winter, scarcity of other forage, for which Indian corn has in many instances been substituted—the great quantities consumed in Distilleries, and the small crops, from great drought, and premature frost last year, may account for this scarcity.

Mr. Innes (mentioned in your letter) has been applied to but it is found that no corn can be obtained through him—

He has contracted to supply the North West Company, with a large quantity, 11 82 and had great difficulty to procure the supply—the last he purchased on that accompt cost him one dollar per bushel in cash.

The Assistant Commissary General has been able to purchase only sixty Bushels of white bread corn at one dollar pr Bushel, which is all he can procure at present, at this or any other place, and no other can be obtained.

I have the honor to be Sir &c &c &c Signed T. B. St. George Lieut. Colonel

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A true Copy J. B. Glegg Captn1 A. D. C.

1 See appendix.

[C 116-p 62.]

FROM LIEUT. COL. ST. GEORGE—UNADDRESSED

(*Commissariat*)

Amherstburg 10th March 1812

Sir ,

I have the honor to state for the information of the Major Genl. that the asst Commissary General having represented to me on the 23d ulto that on or before that period, purchases of Flour, Pork and Peas had usually been made for the annual supply of this Post, and St. Joseph's—and that he had not received any Instructions from the Head of his Department relative to the supply of the present year.

Taking into consideration the advanced season, the small supply of Pork to be obtained at this place, and having been informed, that proposals had been made, for the purchase of Flour, and Pork, by persons who would most likely take them elsewhere, or raise the price, I directed him to lose no time in posting the usual advertisements for the necessary supply of the above mentioned articles of provisions, and this day proposals have been received by which he will contract for 1000P *Bushels* of Flour at 7½ dollars— and 625 Barrels of Pork at 19 dollars pr Barrel.

P .—Barrel meant.

I have also to state for the information of the Major General, that I have authorized the Assistant Commissary General to contract for a further supply of 50 Barrels of Pork which

have been offered from the other side, and which the Commissary thinks will not be more than sufficient.

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I have been induced to do this, on referring to the 2d paragraph in your letter of the 12th ulto respecting the cows—and I hope the Major General will approve of what I have done.

I have the honor to be &c &c &c (Signed) T. B. St. George Lieut. Col.

A true copy J. B. Glegg Capn A. D. C.

[C 116-p 64.]

CAPTAIN POLLARD TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*Chaplaincies*)

To his Excellency, Sir George Prevost, Baronet, Commander in Chief of His Majestys Forces, &c. &c. &c.

The Memorial of the revd Richd Pollard Curate of Sandwich, and actg Chaplain to the Garrison of Amherstburg, humbly Sheweth; That His Royal Highness the Duke of York, having been graciously pleased to appoint your Memo'st Chaplain to the Garrison of Amherstburg, with a salary of Twenty five pounds pr Annum payable on a certificate of the commandg officer, of the Post, certifying that divine Service has been performed to the Troops every Sunday, and the sick visited twice a week.—Your Memo'st being stationed at Sandwich, sixteen miles from Amherstg cannot comply with the strict letter of the Order: but engages his honor that he will perform divine service every month and visit the Troops, on all occasions of emergency. Your memst respectfully informs Your Excellency, that he has regularly performed this duty to the Garrisn from the year 1802, & that every visit to Amherstg cost your Memst six dollars, and three days Absence: Your memst therefore

humbly, prays that he may be allowed to receive the Salary, so generously granted by His Royal Highness, and your Memst as in duty bound will every pray—

Rich Pollard 1 actg Chaplain to the Garrison of Amhersbg

1 Member of grand jury, Detroit, 1778. A second letter, 1814, recounts his hard luck as an army chaplain, but he asks to be retained.

Sandwich April 14th 1812

[C 63-p 186.]

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MR. ROBINSON TO SECRETARY FREER1

1 See appendix.

(*Commissariat*)

Commissary Generals Office Quebec 23d April 1812

Sir

With reference to my Letters of the 26th ulto and 6th Inst submitting several alterations and Appointments in the Commissariat of which The Commander of the Forces was pleased to approve. I now beg leave to recommend to His Excellency the following Persons for the respective situations;—

Mr. William Bailey, Clerk in the Commissary Genl's Office, at 3–9 a Day, to be Store keeper in charge of the Commissariat at the Island of St. Joseph's at six Shillings a Day—vice Sentlow Rawson, removed to the Barrack Department.

I am not yet enabled to nominate proper Persons for the situations of Issuers as mentioned in my letters before alluded to, but there is no reason to hasten these appointments.

The above it is necessary should take place immediately to prevent the Public Service from Suffering.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient humble Servant D. H. Robinson . Comy. Genl.

Noah Freer Esq— Military Secretary &c. &c. &c.

[C 116-p 110.]

85

FROM LIEUT. COL. ST GEORGE

(*Relations with United States*)

(Extract)

Amherstburg 7th May 1812

“As the Queen Charlotte will not be able to sail before the 12th I think it necessary to send a man with to inform you of a Report that we have here, which has been brought by a person in the employment of a merchant, and who has been lately in the interior—He reports that 1200 of the Ohio Militia were to rendezvous at Urbana the last week in April—and at the same time Colonel Kingsbury was to have 1000 Regulars at Cincinnati; both, he says, were destined for the Michigan territory and Detroit—What credit the man is entitled to, I know not, he came here from Detroit, where he made the same report, and also at Sandwich—

They are making preparations on the opposite side, are embodying a Troop of Cavalry (75 men) and a Company of Infantry of the same number, enlistments going on rapidly—They have erected a three Gun Battery (24 pnds in the rear of the great store, between the wood wharf and King's wharf on the rise of the hill from the river—We have various reports here, and so Contradictory I know not what to think—But the prevailing one is, their very great dread of the Indians, so much so, that the inhabitants of Detroit have repeatedly applied to their Government for Troops. Provisions by all accounts are very scarce there.

(Signed) T. B. St George I. F. O. Canadian Militia.

MAJ. GEN. BROCK TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

York , U. C. May 15th 1812

Sir

I have this day been honored with Your Excellency's confidential communication dated the 30th ulto

I have long since thought that nothing but the public voice restrained the United States Government from commencing direct hostilities, and it is but reasonable to expect that they will seek every opportunity to enflame the minds of the people against England in order to bring them the more readily into their measures—It will be my study to guard against any event that 86 can give them any just cause of complaint, but the proximity of the two countries will in all probability produce collisions, which however accidentally brought about, will be represented as so many acts of aggression. It would not surprise me if their first attempt to create irritation was the seizing the islands in the channel to which both countries lay claim, such was represented to Sir James Craig on a former occasion, to be their intention—

In addition to the force specified by Your Excellency I understand that six companies of the Ohio Militia are intended for Detroit—our interest with the Indians will materially suffer in consequence of these extensive preparations being allowed to proceed with impunity. I have always considered that the reduction of Detroit would be the signal of a cordial co-operation on their part, and if we are not in sufficient force to effect this object no reliance ought to be placed on the Indians.1

1 See appendix.

About forty regulars were last week added to the garrison of Niagara, and by all accounts Barracks are to be immediately constructed at Black Rock almost opposite Fort Erie, for a large force.

I returned three days ago from an excursion to Fort Erie, the Grand river where the Indians of the Six nations are settled, and back by the head of the Lake Every gentleman with whom I had an opportunity of conversing assured me that an exceeding good disposition prevailed among the people—The Flank Companies in the Districts in which they have been established, were constantly completed with volunteers, and indeed an almost unanimous disposition to serve is daily manifested—I shall proceed to extend this system now that I have ascertained the people are so well disposed—but my means are very limited.

I propose detaching one hundred Rank & File of the 41st to Amherstburg almost immediately—

I have the honor to be With the highest respect, Your Excellency's Faithful and Humble Servant Isaac Brock M. G.

His Excellency Genl. Sir George Prevost B. &c &c &c

[C 676-p 112.]

Library of Congress

SIR GEORGE PREVOST TO THE EARL OF LIVERPOOL1

1 See appendix.

(*Military Posts*)

Quebec 18th May 1812

My Lord ,

In obedience to the Command signified to me in your Lordship's dispatch No. 7 of the 13th February, I now have the honor to report upon the Military position of His Majesty's North American Provinces, and the means of defending them.

Upper Canada

Commencing with Upper Canada, as the most contiguous to the Territory of the United States and frontier to it along its whole extent, which renders it, in the event of War, more liable to imminent attack.

Fort St Joseph

Fort St. Joseph distant about 1500 miles from Quebec, consists of Lines of strong Pickets enclosing a Block House. It stands on the Island of St. Joseph within the detour communicating the head of Lake Huron with Lake Superior: It can only be considered as a Post of Assemblage for friendly Indians, and in some degree a protection for the North West Fur trade: The Garrison at St Josephs consists of a small Detachment from the Royal Artillery and one Company of Veterans.

Fort Amherstburg

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Fort Amherstburg situated on the River Detroit at the head of Lake Erie, is of importance from its being the Dock Yard and Marine Arsenal for the Upper Lakes: It is also a place of reunion for the Indians inhabiting that part of the Country, who assemble there in considerable numbers to receive Presents:—The Fort has been represented to me as a temporary Field Work in a ruinous State; it is now undergoing a repair to render it tenable:—The Garrison at Amherstburg consists of a Subaltern's Detachment of Artillery, and about 120 men of the 41st Regiment, the whole commanded by Lieut Colonel St. George, an Inspecting Field Officer:—The Militia in its vicinity amounts to about 500 men.

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I have the honor to be My Lord Your Lordship's most obedient and most humble Servant (signed) George Prevost

The Right Honorable The Earl of Liverpool &c. &c. &c.

[Freer papers, 1812-13-p 3.]

MR. CLAUS TO MAJ. GEN. BROCK

(*War—1812*)

Amherstburg 16th June 1812

Sir ,

On my arrival at this Post two days ago, the enclosed speech from Teckumthie,1 in answer to the Message sent to him by the Superintendent of Indian Affairs by your order, was put into my hands—I immediately sent to the Standing Stone for Esidore Chaine, a Huron, who was the bearer of the Message, and received from him the following information.

1 See appendix.

*Teckumthie on hearing of Chaine being on the way with a message advanced to Machekethe about sixty Miles west of Kickayuga, or Fort Mayne, (Wayne) and twelve different Nations, amounting to about six hundred men, two leading Chiefs and two War Chiefs of each Nation; they had plenty of Corn with the exception of the Shawonoes, who lost theirs after the engagement with Governor Harrison—Teckumthie left at his village three hundred men when he advanced to meet Chaine; they have been constantly employed in making Bows and arrows, not having any ammunition. Teckumthie was much dissatisfied with his Brother for engaging Governor Harrison, last fall, as their plans were not sufficiently matured.2 he further states, that Governor Harrison held a General Council about the Full Moon, in May, and called on the different Nations to deliver up their Men who had committed murder on the Big Knives, (meaning the Americans) the Potawatamies being particularly

2 Referring to the battle of Tippecanoe.

pointed at, replied, that before they could give an answer they must consult their Nation and that at the next full moon they would give him an answer—he replied that it was very well, and that he would wait with patience, but if he did not hear from them by that time, he would march against that Nation and cut them off—Chaine mentioned to me that the Indians know the Americans too well, to believe that their intention was to attack only the one Nation, and if they struck a blow, it would be against the whole, and that they would not be asleep—That all the Nations are aware of the desire of the Americans have of destroying the* *Red people* and taking their country from them.

* The English.

On examining the issues of ammunition to Indians at Amherstburg, for the last six months, I find that in Powder that they have received only 1,211. pounds, making a difference of nineteen hundred and twenty one pounds less than at former periods—of Lead, not one ounce has been issued to them since last December, which will account for the increased consumption of Provisions:

Having no Lead the Indians cannot supply themselves with food by hunting.

I have the honour to be Sir Your most obedient and very humble servant (Signed) w: Claus D. S. G.

Major General Brock &c &c &c

[C 676-p 144.]

INDIAN SPEECH

Speech of the Shawanoes, Kickapoos & Winnibiegoes, delivered by Techkumthai at Machethie, on the Wabash, in answer to the Message I sent to them by the Hurons Last Winter.

Father. & Brothers Hurons! Brother Hurons.

You say you were employed by our Father and your own Chiefs to come and have some conversation with us and we are happy to see you and to hear your and our Fathers speech. We heartily thank you both for having taken 12 90 the condition of our poor women and children to your considerations: We plainly see that you pity us by the concern you show for our welfare; and we should deem ourselves much to blame if we did not listen to the Counsel of our Father and our Brothers the Hurons.

Fathers and Brothers! We have not brought these misfortunes on ourselves; We have done nothing wrong, but we will now point out to you those who have occasioned all the mischief—

Our younger Brothers the Putewatemies (pointing to them) in spite of our repeated counsel to them to remain quiet and live in peace with the Big Knives would not listen to us—When I left home last year to go to the Creek Nation, I passed at Post Vincennes and was stopped by the Big Knives, and did not immediately know the reason, but I was soon informed that the Putewatemies had killed some of their people; I told the Big Knives to remain quiet until my return, when I should make peace and quietness prevail—On my return I found my village reduced to ashes by the Big Knives—You cannot blame Your Younger Brothers the Shawanoes for what has happened; the Petewatemies occasioned the misfortune. Had I been at home and heard of the advance of the American Troops towards our Village I should have gone to meet them and shaking them by the hand, have asked them the reason of their appearance in such hostile guise. Fathers & Brothers! You tell us to retreat or turn to one side should the Big Knives come against us; had I been at home in the late unfortunate affair I should have done so, but those I left at home were (I cannot call them men) a poor set of people, and their scuffle with the Big Knives I compared to a struggle between little children who only scratch each others faces—The Kikapoos and Winibagoes have since been at Post Vincennes and settled that matter amicably. Father & Brothers. The Putewatemies hearing that our Father and you were on the way here for peaceable purposes, grew very angry all at once and Killed Twenty Seven of the Big Knives.

Brothers!—We Shawanoes, Kickapoos and Winabagoes, hope you will not find fault with us for having detained you so long here; We are happy to see you and to hear your and our Fathers words; and it would surely be strange if we did not listen to our Father and our eldest Brothers.

Father and Brothers! We will now in a few words declare to you our whole hearts—If we hear of the Big Knives coming towards our Villages to speak peace, we will receive them; but if we hear of any of our people being hurt by them, or if they unprovokedly advance against us in a hostile manner, be assured we will defend ourselves like men.—And if we hear of any of our people having been killed, we will immediately send to all the Nations on or towards the Mississippi and all this Island will rise as one 91 man—Then Father and Brothers it will be impossible for you or either of you to restore peace between us.

Amherstburg 8th June 1812 (Signed) M. Elliott S. I. A.

16th June 1812 true Copy W. Claus (Signed) D. I. G.

[C 676-p 147.]

ACCOUNT

Account of Sundries del'd by Robert Dickson & Co to the Sioux Follesavonies Winebagoes —Indians at the Prairie du Cheen—

1812

Mar 4 17 guns left to the Sioux 80 1360

April

4 ps Strauds 50 1200

27½ yd. scarlet 24 660

2 fine guns 120 240

1 do 300

May

975 lb Tobacco 6 5850

227 lb Powder 9 2043

600 lb Balls 1–10 900

200 lb Shot 1–10 300

1000 gun flints 36

4 ps Int Callicos 228½ yds 4 914

5 Barrels H. Wines 180 gals 20 3600

Livrs 17 403

Purchased from Jacob

900 lbs pork 15 810

3000 lbs. flour 50 1500

4 Bbls Whiskey 140 gals 9 1260

Quebec Cury Livres 20,973

Errors excepted Jos. Rolette Michillimakinac 20th July 1812

[C 256-p 216.]

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Robert Dickson & Co

For sundries furnished Mr. Dickson for the Sioux folles (Folles Avoines, Menominees) &c Winebagoes Indians at the Prairie du Chien viz 1—

To F. Bouthellier Dr.

1812

May 7 6 thousand weight flour at 8 dollars per hundred 480 0

9 barrels pork 2045 lbs 255 0

3 barrels corn meal 500 1s 4d 20 0

June 1

300 d flour 10d 30 0

June 10

1 Thousand weight flour 11d 110 0

paid Brisbois for baking 100 0

$995 0

Received payment in full Mackinac 24 July 1812 F. Bouthellier

[C 256-p 217.]

GENERAL HULL TO MR. EUSTIS1

(*War—1812*)

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1 William Eustis, 1753–1825. American physician and politician; Secretary of War, 1809–13; governor of Massachusetts, 1823–25.

Camp Necessity near Blanchards Creek June 24 1812

Sir

The heavy and incessant Rains which have fallen since the army marched from Urbana have inundated the Country and rendered it impossible to make that expidition which the state of things may require, and my own wishes strongly impel.

I have opened the road about thirteen miles in advance, and established a Block-house, that station is about 40 miles from the foot of the Rapids. 500 men are at the station, the army is now preparing to March, and will arrive at the foot of the Rapids by the 1st of July unless a continuation of the Rain prevents it.

There are now established on this Road five strong Blockhouses, garrisoned principally by the Invalids of the army, I have stated to you in my former 93 letters the importance of this Communication. considering the fatigues to which the army has been subjected, both officers, and soldiers are in good health and continue to be animated by a laudable spirit.

Genl Brock the Governor of Upper Canada arrived at Malden on the 14th Inst. with 100 British Troops, on the 17th he sailed for Fort Erie in the Queen Charlotte, and it is said she will return with a reenforcement immediately—large numbers of Indians from all the Northern Nations are collecting at Amherstburg, and at Browns Town opposite the British Fort, and likewise on the river Huron of Lake Erie three miles below Browns Town—they have a constant communication with the British Garrison and are supplied with Provisions and other things necessary for them—In the event of hostilities I feel a confidence the force under my command will be superior to any which can be opposed to it, It now exceeds two thousand Rank & file, I cannot by this Conveyance send an accurate Return,

It is unnecessary to detail the difficulties I have to encounter in the March of the Army through this Wilderness, it is only for me to surmount them,

I am &c &c &c Wm Hull 1

1 See appendix.

(signed) Honble W Eustis War Department

[C 676-p 162.]

GENERAL HULL TO MR. EUSTIS

(*War—1812*)

Camp at Fort Findlay on Blanchards Fork 35 Miles from the foot of the Rapids of the Miami June 26-1812

Sir

I have this moment received your Letter of the 18th of June Inst. Since the army marched from Urbana we have had constant & heavy rains, this has rendered the progress of the army slow—since the junction of the whole Force not a moment has been, or shall be, lost in advancing to our Post, the Road is already opened ten Miles in advance; to this place strong Blockhouses are erected within Twenty miles of each other, to preserve the communication in the event of War, I have placed in them small Garrisons, and left the few sick & Invalids with their arms, medical aid, and all necessary comforts, I suggest to you whether it would not be expedient to relieve the Troops of this Army stationed in the Blockhouses by the Militia of the 94 Ohio—In the event of War it will be necessary to keep up this communication, I have with me a considerable number of friendly chiefs, and Head men of the different Nations—the Indians as we progress appear to be friendly, I hope in three days to be at the foot of the Rapids—The army is in high spirits and animated by a

laudable zeal, there exists a perfect harmony. McArthurs Blockhouse stands on the sciato, and the River is Navigable for Boats to that station, from that Station to Fort Findlay the distance is about Twenty seven Miles, and there is a Boat Navigation to Detroit by the Miami.

It is my intention to build another Blockhouse on the carrying River; about half the distance between this and the foot of the Rapids. The friendly Indians are now making Canoes and will carry a part of the Baggage of the Army from this to the foot of the Rapids enclosed is† the most correct Return that can be made of the army, under present circumstances.

† The Return corresponds with the Numbers stated in Genl Hulls Letter of the 24th June No 2 sent herewith.

I am Sir &c &c &c Wm. Hull

signed To Honble Wm. Eustis War Department

[C 676-p 165.]

MAJ. GEN. BROCK TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812. Declaration*)

Fort George July 3d 1812

Sir

I have been anxiously expecting for some days to receive the honor of Your Excellency's Commands in regard to the measures the most proper to be pursued on the present emergency, The accounts received first through a mercantile channel, and soon after repeated from various quarters, of war having been declared by the United States against Great Britain, would have justified in my opinion offensive operations—But the

reflection that at Detroit and St. Josephs the weak state of the garrisons would prevent the commanders from attempting any essential service connected in any degree with their future security, and put my only means of annoyance on this communication, was limited to the reduction of Fort Niagara, which could be battered at any future period, I relinquished my original intention, and attended only to defensive measures. My first object has been the calling out of the Flank Companies of Militia which has produced a force on 95 this line of about 800 men—They turned out very cheerfully, but already show a spirit of impatience—The Kings stores are now at such a low ebb that they scarcely furnish any Article of use or comfort, Blankets, Haversacks and Kettles are all to be purchased and the Troops in watching the banks of the river stand in the utmost need of tents—Mr. Couche1 has adopted the most efficious means to pay the Militia in paper currency—I cannot positively say the number of Militia that will be embodied, but they Cannot throughout the Province 4000. The Americans are very active on the opposite side in the erection of redoubts, we are not idle on our part, but unfortunately having supplied Amherstburg with the guns that post required from Fort George, depending upon gitting others from Kingston to supply their place, we find ourselves at this moment rather short of that essential arm—I have however every reason to think they are embarked on board the Earl Moira, which, according to major McPherson's report was to have sailed on the 20th ulto.

1 See appendix.

The Americans have, I believe, about 1200 regulars and militia, between Fort Niagara and Black Rock—and I consider myself at this moment perfectly safe against any attempt they can make About 100 Indians from the Grand River have attended to my summons, the remainder promise to come also, but I have too much reason to conclude that the Americans have been too successful in their endeavours to sow dissension and disaffection among them—It is a great object to get this fickle race interspersed among the troops—I should be unwilling in the event of a retreat, to have three or four hundred of

them hanging on my flanks—I shall probably have to sacrifice some money to gain them over—The appointment of some officers with salaries will be absolutely necessary.

The Americans make a daily parade of their force, and easily impose on the people on this side in regard to their numbers—I do not think they exceed 1200 but they are represented infinitely more numerous—For the last fortnight every precaution has been taken to guard against the least Communication, and to this day I am ignorant whether the President sanctioned the war resolutions of the two houses of Congress—that is whether war be actually declared—The car Brigade has been completed for service with Horses belonging to Gentlemen who spared them free of expense. I have not been honored with a line from Mr. Foster, nor with all my endeavours have I been able to obtain information of any Consequence.

The Prince Regent made her first voyage this morning, and I propose sending her to Kingston, to bring such articles as are absolutely necessary, 96 which we know have arrived from Quebec. I trust she will outsail the Oneida.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your Excellency's Most obedient Humble servant Isaac Brock . M. Genl.

To His Excellency Genl Sir George Prevost Bt &. &. &.

[C 676-p 115.]

GENERAL HULL TO LIEUT. COL. ST GEORGE

(*War—1812*)

Camp, Spring Hill 1 3 Miles Below Detroit July 6, 1812

1 See appendix.

Sir

Since the arrival of my Army at this encampment (five o'clock P M. yesterday) I have been informed that a number of discharges of artillery and of small arms have been made by some of the Militia of the Territory, from this shore into Sandwich.

I regret to have received such information, the proceeding was unauthorised by me, I am not disposed to make war on Private Property, or to authorize a wanton attack upon unoffending individuals, I would be happy to learn whether you consider private property a proper object of seizure & detention, I allude to the Baggage of officers particularly.

The bearer of this Col: Cass an officer Commanding one of my Regiments (he is accompanied by Capt Hickinson) he is in possession of my ideas upon the subject of an exchange of Prisoners, and is authorized to enter into stipulations for that purpose.

I am — — — (Signed) Wm Hull . B. Genl Commanding the North Western Army of the United States

Col: St George the officer Commanding Fort Malden

[C 676-p 132.]

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FROM LIEUT. COL. ST. GEORGE—UNADDRESSED

(*War—1812*)

Amherstburg 8 July 1812

Dear General

I was favored with your letter of the 4th this morning, and I send down the Hunter immediately to Fort Erie.

The Lady Prevost will not I fear (with all our exertions) be in the water sooner than a week —In consequence of your letter of the 28th June which I received late in the evening of the 1st I made every arrangement in my power to Carry into effect your orders, and between that time and about noon next day (2d) when I received Your letter of the 29th June, the schooner I mentioned to you in my last letter of that date, was captured—she will I am informed be a valuable prize, having on board the Correspondence between the Commander of the Army and the American Government—Being Constantly on the Road between this place and Sandwich, since the papers were found, I have not been able to peruse them, but have Commissioned Captain Dixon and Lieut Dewar to open and retain what is absolutely necessary for us to have here, respecting Indians, or to take notes of them—and the rest I have ordered to be made up and sent to you—no time was lost in getting the Militia of Kent and Sandwich (which was found absolutely necessary) and I thought with them and the 2d Essex (about 200 each) Sandwich would be safe—I sent up the 4th with Lieut Dewar and made every arrangement possible for that purpose,—on the 5th having heard that they were much alarmed and expected an immediate attack I went up again and ordered the two six pounders to follow with a detachment of 41st Regiment to act as I saw occasion—On my arrival about 5. P m I found the place in great alarm from the Enemy having fired several shots from a 4 poundr opposite to Sandwich, and one or two shots from a 24 poundr at Detroit which went into a house opposite. I thought I had quieted the Alarm and Convinced them that there was nothing to apprehend from the forces opposed to them (no reinforcements of any Consequence having then arrived) and that I would immediately support them in case of an attack—The next morning as I was sending up a party of the 41st and an officer to put them in some order, I was informed by Colonel Baby,1 that he was on his march to Amherstburg—I immediately sent off Captain Muir and 50 of the 41st in Carts with two 3 pounders to stop them, which he did, near

the Canard bridge and returned with them to their former position—whilst the Militia was absent a Flag of Truce arrived at Sandwich and was 13

1 For Biographies of the Baby family see note 251, appendix.

98 forwarded to me, the nature of which the enclosed Copies of Letters which passed on that occasion will explain.

Nos 1 & 2 I have found it necessary at present to leave the Detachment of the 41st with a Captain, two subs, and the two 3 pounders at Sandwich, and also two heavy Guns I ordered to follow the Detachmt to encourage the Militia, and at present, as the enemy has not the means of passing in force, I think them secure from surprise—I shall keep Sandwich as long as I can, as also keep open the communication, and prevent my Detachmt from being cut off—From the want of officers and other assistance I have not been able to get a state of the people I have collected—I have been obliged to issue Indian arms to the Militia and shall arm every man I find disposed to make use of one for us—I have embodied the Canadians I detained in the eleven boats from Montreal (70 men) belonging to the North West Company—Their Cargoes I am obliged to make free with, Consisting of Arms, Ammunition and Blankets—Had I not detained them they would have fallen into the hands of the Enemy—on receiving your letter of the 28th I ordered the Nancy belonging to the North West Compy of about 70 Tons waiting for a wind to take her up from “Moy”1 to the upper Lake, down here, where she remains—I have taken some brass three pounders from her to mount in the boats before mentioned. In short I find myself so situated, that I am obliged to make use of everything I want, that falls in my way—I am much distressed at not being able to get returns of what men I have, and I fear there will be great confusion in the accounts, but I cannot help it,—I must issue provisions to men that come forward, and am endeavoring to get all the Cattle I can, to this place, I am obliged to appoint assistants in the different departments to act in this confusion—I counted yesterday 460 Militia at Sandwich including two Companies of Colonel Elliots Militia—Many without arms, but which I have supplied from the Indians, and private stores—Captain Muir from whom I received great assistance is labouring hard at Sandwich to

get them in some order—when obliged to it, I hope they may make a regular retreat on this place—We have in the Fort the two Flank Compys of Colonel Elliotts Regt in all about 140—The rest of that Battalian down the lake I am endeavoring to collect, and when I am able to get a regular return I shall send it—men we shall certainly have and several seem willing to act if they knew how and were well supported, and had officers to show them the way—I now think it fortunate that your letter of the 29th came too late to stop the messengers sent out to the distant Indians—on my return from Sandwich yesterday we had a grand Council of chiefs &c &c from the neighborhood, and the usual ceremonies of the wampum &c &c were gone through—There were present about 200 and besides those

1 See appendix.

99 present I am informed 100 had gone to their Camp—Tecumtha (the Prophet's brother) acted a Conspicuous part on the occasion. We are hard at work at the Fort, and have done a great deal since you left us—The Curtains began on, are nearly finished: Two of the Bastions well fraised, the other two will be fraised in two days—from this date—The scarpe all the way round is deepened—Twenty pieces of Cannon well mounted: The Platforms all perfectly good—The North Curtain remains as it was, and with Timber we are giving it a thickness of 14 feet to that side—A log building is thrown up in the Fort about 60 men—Another will be thrown up in half a day when we have done with more material work—The small magazine is in a state of forwardness—In short every exertion possible is made by us all.—I have appointed Captain Mockler of the Newfoundland Regt my Aid-de-Camp. besides from what I have heard of his character as an officer and a gentleman (for he is quite a stranger to me) he is the only officer that Could be spared—I am much mortified at the Confused state in which I find my self with the men of the Militia, now we have Collected them together—their wants are many—I wish much for instructions respecting the pay &c. &c. of the Militia, and of those who have offered to serve and have been accepted by me,—From what I have seen of their Country, a Regular force here of even two Battalians would be quite sufficient for its security—But if it is found that we cannot support those who take up arms, I dread the Consequence, Those we get into the

Fort we can Control, but not others—I shall be careful of my Detachment at Sandwich at all events. You may well suppose it requires vigilance at that distance—I should be under no uneasiness, if I had the Militia in any state of order—officers we want for them.—I hope dear General you will excuse this irregular scroll, but I have been so harrassed for these five days and nights, I can scarcely write—I am endeavouring to raise a Corps of Cavalry, and attach them to the Quarter Master General's Department and I must employ some of the Gentlemen in the Country Capable of assisting, in getting in horses Cattle &c. I have taken a great deal on myself, but found I could not get anything done if I did not—The Boats, Cargoes and vessel of the North West Company are a serious Concern—I can detain the Hunter no longer.

Believe me Dear General &c &c &c

Signed T. B. St George Lt. Col. Commanding

P. S. Col. Baby's reason for leaving Sandwich, was that the men seemed inclined to return home

[C 676-p 134.]

100

FROM LIEUT. COL. ST. GEORGE—UNADDRESSED

(*War—1812*)

Amherstburg 10th July 1812

Dear General

Colonel Elliot having received information relative to the Indians send it off by Express —Since writing by the Hunter which was not able to leave the Bar till yesterday evening I have been at Sandwich, I found the Kent & Essex not then in a better Condition than

when I left them two days before—they are all armed—but I am not able to withdraw my Detachment—Their Colonels think if I do so they will not remain—even two Companies of the Militia of this place who were ordered up on the Two Regiments retreating and who I have particular occasion for at the Petit Cotè1 to Keep up the Communication, I am not able to withdraw—nor the two heavy Guns (9 Pds) I sent up on that occasion—in short I believe I must move the Two Regiments and Detachments down here, but that I shall not do until I get all the Cattle possible from the Thames and Sandwich and drive them below Amherstburg. I have now sent off Lieut Dewar to make arrangements, and have found it necessary to employ Mr. Francis Baby to assist in the Qr Mr. Generals Department at Sandwich, and also Mr. Caldwell here,

1 On Detroit river, below Sandwich; mouth of River Rouge on American side is nearly opposite.

I have got some wounded men at Sandwich for Patrole, about 30, I hope we shall be able to get men here when the Militia of Colonels Elliotts come from the Lake, of that part of his Regiment not more than 20 have Yet joined—I have the greatest difficulty respecting the officers of *all* the Regiments as Colonel Elliott thinks his papers cannot admit of Delay—

I am obliged to Conclude And am Dear General Yours faithfully T B St George

On my arrival at Sandwich early yesterday morning I found General Hull had struck his Camp at Spring Mill2 and Marched into Detroit—should the Kent & Essex Continue so much alarmed at their situation I must withdraw them from Sandwich, and as I have nothing to replace them, must also withdraw the Detachment, I am at present so disagreeably situated from the prevailing disposition of both officers, and men, that I have no doubt in case of an attack on Sandwich which the Enemy appear to be preparing for, The force there will be obliged to retreat on this place, and before that happens, which would throw the Militia into a state of Confusion liable to

2 Springwells.

101 disorganize the whole body, before it is too late I shall most likely think it incumbent on me to bring them down to this place, and make the most of them—perhaps they will show a better spirit when they have a larger body of Regulars to set them an example.

(signed) T. B. St. George Lt Col Comg

[676-p 141.]

CAPTAIN ROBERTS TO MR. DICKSON

(*War—1812*)

Fort St. Joseph's 10 July 1812

Sir

Having Volunteered your services with the Indians you have brought along with you I have to request you will comply with such orders as you may receive from me from time to time

I have the honour to be Sir Your most obedient servant Charles Roberts 1 Captain Commanding

1 A spirited, active soldier; often successfully employed. He was in command of a battalion of the 10th Royal Veterans, and captured Mackinac, July 16, 1812.

Robert Dickson Esq

[C 256-p. 215.]

FROM CAPTAIN ROBERTS—UNADDRESSED

(*War—1812*)

Fort St. Joseph 12 July 1812

Sir

I had the honor to receive Your orders of the 26 and 27th of June, on the 8th inst: the best disposition my resources afforded were instantly made with the view of an immediate attack upon the Fort of Michilimackinac. when the second express with Your orders of the 28 and 29 in duplicate to suspend hostilities, arrived, which also seeming to preclude the necessity of the express to Amherstburg it consequently has not been forwarded—Every exertion will be made use of to put the force I have here in such a state of preparation so as to be able to act as your orders may direct or occasion may require.

102

To Mr. Pothier, Mr. Dickson, Mr. Crawford,1 and the Gentleman at the Sault of St Mary's. I am under the greatest obligation for their ready and effectual aid and personal exertions voluntarily contributed—Mr. Pothier has thrown open his store houses to supply my requisitions in the handsomest manner.

1 Lewis Crawford of the North West Fur Company; his operations were in the country along the St. Mary's river, and at Mackinac when the British held that post.

Mr Dickson with a chosen Band of Warriors of upwards of a hundred men in whom he appears to have the greatest confidence has greatly assisted me with his advice—much may be looked for from him and his party in the event of an attack upon the American Fort.

Mr Crawford, at the head of 140 Canadian Volunteers, Contributes every thing in his power to accelerate the general Interest assurances are also held out to me of ample reinforcements in men, arms and provisions being speedily sent down from the N. W. Company Post at Fort William.

I have this morning held a council with most of the principal chiefs of the Outawas. It has been a subject of much speculation how these people would act—on this occasion it gives me pleasure to inform you that after a long and private consultation amongst themselves, in consequence of my communicating to them the state of affairs, they at last decided unanimously in our favor and are just going off for their Arms, and the remainder of their men.

I took measures for securing the Caladonia in her way down from the Sault, she is now here and may be of essential service,—I have enclosed a Memorandum of Articles received from the South West Company stores for your information.

The Express has been detained partly at the request of Mr. Pothier as well as to give you the sentiments of the Outawas.

no reinforcements had arrived at Mackinack when these people passed that place yesterday.

I have the honor to be &c (sgd) Charles Roberts Captain 10th V. B.

[C 676-p 156.]

MR. DICKSON TO MAJOR GENERAL BROCK

(*Indians*)

Sir

I take the liberty of addressing Your Honour on the subject of the Indian nations of the west, a number of whose chiefs and warriors have accompanied 103 me to this place in order to co-operate with His Majesty's Forces wherever their services may be wanted,—The situation of these nations last winter has, from their usual supplies being withheld, been truly deplorable, there is but little hope at present of goods being this season carried

into their country, and unless they receive strong support in ammunition and clothing from His Majesty, they must infallibly perish.

I had intended at this moment to have paid Your Honour a visit, in order to have had the satisfaction of representing to you the state of the country, and several other interesting subjects in the present crisis; but I have deferred this that I may be ready for the attack of Michilimackinac, so earnestly wished for, as the means of securing the communication to the Mississippi and retaining and supporting all the Indians Tribes in their present happy disposition so favourable to the interests of Britain.

From Capt. Roberts I have received every mark of attention that politeness could dictate, or that the good of the service can require. The Indians are much gratified with his comportment towards them, and in him they repose the highest confidence.

I some time since despatched from Green Bay, thirty Indians to Amherstburg, had I received earlier information, I could have with ease brought an addition of four or five hundred to those here now.

We wait anxiously for your orders, on which the fate of this country depends.

I am sir & & R. Dickson 1

1 See appendix.

St. Joseph's July 13th 1812 To Major Genl Brock

[C 256-p 187.]

LIEUT. COL. ST. GEORGE TO MAJ. GEN. BROCK

(*War—1812*)

Amherstburg 15th July 1812

Dear General

Since my letter of the 8th which I sent by the Hunter, finding that it would not be possible for me to Keep Sandwich owing to the disposition in which I found the Militia; I thought it right to prepare to withdraw the force there to Amherstburg, and on the 10th instant I sent the assistant Quarter Master General to arrange with Mr. Francis Baby (who I had 104 appointed to assist in that Department) to drive whatever Cattle &c &c could be found, to this Post...on the 11th I received a letter from Colonel Baby, stating, that from the preparation made on the opposite side, & every appearance of the Enemy crossing in great force, he had determined (with the unanimous advice of his officers) to withdraw to Amherstburg immediately. On my arrival there, the same day I found that the heavy Guns and Baggage were sent off, and from the information of those I could most depend on, that the men had shown so great a disposition to get away home, I had every reason to suppose that in the course of the night they would disperse—I thought it best to get them to Amherstburg—

The next morning early (the 12th) the Enemy crossed with the greatest part of his force near Hog Island,1 and occupied Sandwich—

1 Belle Isle—now the beautiful city park in the Detroit river.

Since that time the Militia have been going off in such numbers, that I have not more than 471 in all this morning—and in such a state as to be totally inefficient in the field—However when I find in what manner the Enemy attack, I must try them—In the meantime I am endeavoring to get them in some order—Their numerous wants I am straining every nerve to supply—yet I am stunned with Complaints chiefly respecting their families left in the greatest want—some of the oldest have been allowed to go home—Regular Returns I am unable to get from their officers—There are Certainly many well disposed, but the idea of

leaving their families and farms at this season occasions their principal disatisfaction—As to the Indians I wished those here to act when I could support them, but as they are so anxious I must let them on, and sustain them as I see occasion, to the utmost of my power—It is impossible to tell their numbers in our favour, as they are Continually going and coming—But I shall know in a day or two how many I can have here to depend on—

I hope the Enemy will move forward by land—The Canard is so strong a position that I think (with the Assistance of the Indians) I can annoy them much before they can get to this by that road—

I am sorry to have to Complain of want of information of every kind—

The Lady Prevost was launched the day before yesterday

(Signed) T. B. St George Lieut Colonel

To M. Genl. Brock & & &c

[C 676-p 177.]

105

COL. ELLIOT TO MR. CLAUS

(*War—1812*)

Amherstburg 15th July 1812

Sir

On Saturday 11th Inst. the enemy appeared in motion from Detroit upwards towards Hog Island on their own side of the River, where they had collected a number of boats. Our Militia stationed at Sandwich to watch their motions, and to prevent if possible their crossing, placing little reliance on their own strength, and fearing they might be cut off,

immediately determined on a retreat, and accordingly did so on the same night to this Post with two pieces of Cannon which had been given them for their defence—and early in the morning of the 12th the enemy crossed in a line from Hog Island to Detroit, and landed at several places at the same time from Mackintoshes to Sandwich without a shot being fired to the number of about 6 or 8 hundred. General Hull immediately occupied Mr. B. Babys1 brick house opposite to Detroit and placed his largest force at Sandwich where they began to entrench themselves, and they have since crossed over their Cavalry and Artillery with more troops and now are entrenching themselves down the settlement toward this Post, erecting batteries at distances, and have also sent a detachment towards the river Thames—The General on Landing issued proclamations to the Inhabitants promising all those who should remain at their homes protection for their persons and property—Their Proclamations have operated very powerfully on our Militia (who had come forward with as much promptitude as could have been expected) Since their issuing our Militia have left their Posts and returned to their homes, so that since Sunday the number is reduced to about one-half, and I expect that in two or three days more we shall have very few of them at the Post.

1 Should read James Baby.

We expect to be attacked today or tomorrow. The Indians with us are between 3 & 400 who have resisted every allurement which General Hull laid before them Tech-Kum-thai has kept them faithful—he has shown himself to be a determined character and a great friend to our Government.

Delay in attacking the enemy has been very detrimental to our interests and greatly cooled the former spirit of our Militia.

We have no ball remaining in the Indian store, and if more Indians come, I really do not know how to act—We have taken all (and that was very little), in possession of the merchants here.

The bearer of this is Guendith a faithful little man, and who will proceed with despatch with this by the way of point Pile.2

2 Point Pelee—Lake Erie.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obdt humble servt (Signed) M. Elliott

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P. S. The people here are much dejected & have removed all their effects out of the place

The Honorable William Claus Deputy Supt General & & & Fort George

[C 676-p 180.]

BY WILLIAM HULL, BRIGADIER GENERAL AND COMMANDER OF THE NORTH WESTERN ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES, A PROCLAMATION

Inhabitants of Canada! After thirty years of Peace and Prosperity, the United States have been driven to Arms, The injuries and aggressions, the insults and indignities of Great Britain have *once more* left them no alternative but manly resistance or unconditional submission. The Army under my command has invaded your Country and the standard of the United states waves on the territory of Canada To the peaceable unoffending inhabitant, It brings neither danger nor difficulty. I come to find enemies not to *make* them. I come to *protect* not to *injure* you.

Separated by an immence ocean and an extensive Wilderness from Great Britain you have no participation in her Councils no interest in her Conduct; You have felt her Tyranny, you have seen her injustice, but I do not ask *you* to avenge the one or to redress the other. The United States are sufficiently powerful to afford you every security consistent with their rights & your expectations, I tender you the invaluable blessings of Civil, Political, & Religious Liberty, and their neessary results, individual, and General prosperity; That

liberty which gave decision to our Councels and energy to our conduct in our struggle for Independence, and which conducted us safely and triumphantly thro' the stormy period of the Revolution.

The Liberty which has raised us to an elevated rank among the Nations of the world and which has afforded us a greater measure of Peace & security wealth and prosperity than ever fell to the Lot of any people.

In the name of my *Country* and by the Authority of my Government I promise you protection to your *persons, property, and rights* . Remain at your homes, pursue your Customary and peaseful avocations, Raise not your hands against your brethren, Many of your fathers fought for the freedom & *Independence* we now enjoy, Being Children therefore of the 107 same family with us, and heirs to the same heritage, the arrival of an army of Friends must be hailed by you with a Cordial Welcome. You will be emancipated from Tyranny and oppression and restored to the dignified station of freemen. Had I any doubt of eventual success I might ask your assistance but I do not. I come prepared for every Contingency. I have a force which look down all opposition and that force is but the vanguard of a much greater. If contrary to your own interests & the just expectation of my country, you should take part in the approaching contest, you will be considered and treated as enemies and the horrors, and calamities of war will stalk before you.

If the barbarous and Savage policy of Great Britain be pursued, and the savages are let loose to murder our Citizens and butcher our women and children, this war will be a war of extermination.

The first stroke with the Tomahawk the first attempt with the scalping Knife will be the signal for one indiscriminate scene of desolation, *No White man found fighting by the side of an Indian will be taken prisoner* Instant destruction will be his lot. If the dictates of reason, duty, justice, and humanity, cannot prevail the employment of a force, which

respects no rights & Knows no wrong, it will be prevented by a severe and relentless system of retaliation.

I doubt not your courage and firmness; I will not doubt your attachment to + + Liberty. If you tender your services voluntarily they will be accepted readily.

The United States offer you *Peace, Liberty* , and *Security* your choice lies between these, & *War, Slavery, and destruction* , Choose then, but choose wisely; and may he who knows the justice of our cause, and who holds in his hands the fate of Nations, guide you to a result the most compatible, with your rights and interests, your peace and prosperity.

(signed) Wm Hull

By the General A. Q. Null1 Cap: 13 U S Regt of Infantry by A. D. C Head Quarters at Sandwich July 13th 1812

1 Incorrectly transcribed; name should be Abraham F. Hull. Aide-de-camp to Gen. Hull. The name appears in the list of inhabitants of Detroit for 1806.

[C 676-p. 168.]

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CAPTAIN ROBERTS TO MAJ. GEN. BROCK

(*War—1812*)

Fort of Michillimackinac 17 July 1812

Sir

I had the honor to receive your letter dated the 4th of July, on the 15th inst, and foreseeing that I should soon be abandoned by the Indians whose minds had been prepared for hostilities, if I did not immediately employ them, and also that the moment so favorable

for making an attack upon this place so highly important at the present crisis might soon be lost—I embarked on the morning of the 10th* with Two of the six pounders and every man I could muster, and at Ten o'clock the signal being made we were immediately under weigh.

* 16th. (?)

By the almost unparalleled exertions of the Canadians who manned the Boats, we arrived at the place of Rendezvous at 3 o'clock the following morning.

One of these unwieldy guns was brought up with much difficulty to the heights above the Fort and in readiness to open about Ten oclock at which time a summons was sent in and the capitulation, a Copy of which I have the honor to Enclose, was soon after agreed upon.—I took immediate possession of the Fort, and displayed the British Colours.—It is a Circumstance I believe without precedent, and demands the greatest praise for all those who conducted the Indians that although these peoples minds were much heated, Yet as soon as they heard the Capitulation was signed they all returned to their Canoes, and not one drop either of mans or animals Blood was spilt, till I gave an order for a certain number of Bullocks to be purchased for them—I have not yet been able to obtain returns of the stores here,—they shall be forwarded by the earliest opportunity.

I cannot conclude this letter without expressing my warmest thanks to my own officers—to the Gentlemen of St Joseph's and St. Mary's, and to every individual engaged in this service.

I trust sir, in thus acting I have not exceeded Your Instructions, for be assured that prudential measures of the first necessity demanded the step which has put me in possession of this Island.

I have the honour to be &c (Signed) Charles Roberts Captain 10th V. B.

Library of Congress

A true Copy Isaac Brock M. General

[C 676-p-232]

CAPTAIN ROBERTS TO COLONEL BAYNES1

1 See appendix.

(*War—1812*)

Fort Michillimackinac 17 July 1812

Sir

On the 15th Instant I received letters by Express from Major General Brock with orders to adopt the most prudent measures either of offence or defence which circumstances might point out, and having received intelligence from the best information that large reinforcements were daily expected to be thrown into this garrison, and finding that the Indians who had been collected would soon have abandoned me if I had not made the attempt, with the thorough conviction that my situation at St. Josephs was totally indefensible, I determined to lose no time in making the meditated attack on this Fort.

On the sixteenth at Ten o'clock in the morning I embarked my few men with about one hundred and fifty Canadian Engagues half of them without arms about three hundred Indians and two Iron Six pounders, the boats arrived without the smallest accident at the place of Rendezvous at three o'clock the following morning by the exertions of the Canadians one of the Guns was brought up to a height commanding the garrison and ready to act about Ten o'clock, a summons was then sent in a copy of which as well of the capitulation which followed, I have the honor to enclose at twelve the American colors were hauled down and those of His majesty's were hoisted—

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A Committee has been appointed to examine into the state of the Public stores Enclosed also are Returns of the Ordnance and Military stores found in the Fort and the strength of the garrison, The greatest praize is due to every individual employed in this expedition to my own officers I am indebted in particular for their active assistance in carrying all my orders into effect.

The Indians are flocking in from all Quarters but in a few weeks I shall be left in great measure to my own resources, and I trust His Excellency the Governor General will see the necessity of adding to my force,

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient servant Charles Roberts Captain Commanding

The Adjutant General & & &c

[C 676-p 183.]

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(*Capitulation*) HEIGHTS ABOVE FORT MICHILIMACKINAC

17 July 1812

Capitulation agreed upon between Captain Charles Roberts commanding His Britannic Majesty's forces on the one part and Lieutenant Hanks Commanding the Forces of the United States of America on the other.

ARTICLE

1st The Fort of Michillimackinac shall immediately be surrendered to the British force

2d The garrison shall march out with the Honours of war lay down their arms and become prisoners of War and shall be sent to the United States of America by His Britannic

Majesty not to serve this war untill regularly exchanged and for the due performance of this article the officers pledge their word of honour.

3d All the merchants Vessells in the Harbour with their cargoes shall be in possession of their respective owners.

4th Private property shall be held sacred as far as in my power.

5th All Citizens of the United States Who shall not take the oath of Allegiance to his Britannic Majesty shall depart with their property from the Island in one month from the date hereof.

Signed Charles Roberts Captain Commanding His Britannic Majesty&s Forces

Signed Saml Hanks 1 Commanding The Forces of the United States at Fort Michilimackinac

1 Lieut. Porter Hanks; killed by cannon shot at bombardment of Detroit from the Windsor side, Aug. 16, 1812. As Hanks, by surrendering Mackinac, saved the place from massacre, his account of danger from Indians impressed Hull; his death had a strong effect on the mind of Gen. Hull who was about to surrender Detroit.

[C 676-p 190 and 234]

111

Return of Ordnance Ammunition and Stores taken Possession of in Michilimackinac Garrison by Cap: Roberts 10th Royal Vetern Battalion Commanding the Expedition 18th July 1812

5½ Inch Howetzers 2 Brass 6 Pounders on Garrison Carriages 2 3 Pounders “ “ “ 1 Iron 9 Ditto “ “ “ 2 Shels 5½ Inch fixed 18 Do D D unfixed 374 5½ Inch Case shot 65 Fuzes 430 Shot 9 Pounders 150 Case shot fixed 50 do do unfixed 60 shot Round shot 864 6 pounders Grape do 18 Fixed to wooden Bottoms 80 Round shot fixed with powder

Case shot 51 shot Round fixed to wooden bottoms 37 3 pounders Grape 23 Round 463 Spunges 4 5½ Inch Lead Aprons 2 Howitzer Tompiens 2 Tube Boxes 8 Spunges 4 Wadhooks 2 9 Pounders Ladies 2 side arms Tompiens 2 Lead aprons 2 Wadhooks 2 Spunges 2 6 pounders Ladles 2 Lead aprons 2 Tompiens 2 Spunges 7 Ladles " 3 Pounders Wadhooks " Lead Aprons 1 Tompiens 1 Powder large Grain lbs 1063 Mealed Powder lbs 8 112 fine Grain lbs 365 Musquet & Baynets 179 Cartridge Boxes & Belts 162 Rifles 6 Pistols 6 Musquet Ball Cartridges Dozens 1295 Flints 6900 Nitre lbs 32 Lead lb 1380 Cartouches of leather 3 Powder Horns 4 Priming Wires 6 Drudging Boxes 3 Portfires sticks 7 Lintstocks 4 Dark Lantherns 2 Flannel Gards Powder Measures 16 Ball screnes 44 Musquet Ball moulds 1 Buck shot moulds 1 Sheets Copper 1 Adze & driver 1 Drums Complete 2

Alexr Pilmour Military Conductor of Stores

[C 676-p 187.]

FROM MR. ASKIN—UNADDRESSED

(*War—1812*)

Michilimackinac 18th July 1812

Dear Sir

I am happy to have it in my power to announce to you that Fort Michilimackinac capitulated to us on the 17th inst at 11 o'clock A. M.—Capt. Roberts at our Head with a part of the 10th R. V Battalion.—Mr. Crawford had the command of the Canadians which consisted of about 200 men—Mr. Dixon 113 Sieoux Foollavoines & Waynebegoes—myself about 280 men.— 113 Ottawas and Chippawas—part of the Ottawas of L'Arbre Croche had not arrived.—It was a fortunate circumstance that the Fort Capitulated without firing a single gun, for had they done so, I firmly believe not a soul of them would have been saved.—My son, Charles Langlade, Augustin Nolin, and Michelle Cadotte Junr have rendered me great services in keeping the Indians in order, and executing from time to time such commands

as were delivered to me by the commanding officer.—I never saw so determined a set of people as the Chippewas & Ottawas were.

Since the capitulation they have not drunk a single drop of Liquor, nor even Killed a Fowl belonging to any person (a thing never Known before) for they generally destroy everything they meet with.

I have the honour &c signed Mr. Askin Junr1 Str. Kr. I. D. (Store-keeper, Indian Department.)

1 John Askin, Jr., storekeeper Indian department, and the agent dealing with all the Indians who came to Mackinac from the western and Lake Superior country for the presents and allowances made to them by the British government. His son, mentioned above, was John B. Askin. In Vol. XXXI, Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections, there is an account of Askin.

[C 676-p 201.] 15

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Monthly Return of the Garrison of Michiliminac Commanded by Lieut Porter Hanks for the Month of June 1812 .1

1 See appendix.

Present Absent Commised & Staff Officers for duty Non Comsd officers Musicians Artificers & privates for duty Sick Unfit for service Commd and Staff Officers Non Commsd Officers, Musicians, Artificers and privates Alterations since last return Station Regiment Company Michiliminac U.S. Artillery Captain 1 Lieutenant 2d Lieutenant Asst: Military Agent Surgions mate Sergeants Corporals Musicians Artificers Privates Privates Privates Total Noncommissd Officers Musicians Artificers and Privates present Musicians Artificers Privates Total Noncommissioned officers, Musicians Artificers and Privates Present and present Aggregate Joined Deserted Reduced Discharged Promoted Dead Transferred Total 2 1 3 4 5 6 39 1 3 61 1 62 65 1 1 1 ABSENTEERS ACCOUNTED FOR Commissioned Officers Non Commissd officers Musicians Artificers & Privates Commisd

officers Privates Thos Mulen (private) transferred to Capt Reeds Company Anthony Saupilie (D) surrendered himself from Desertion at Detroit the 16th January 1812 1st Lieutenant Archd Darrach 1st Regt. Artillery S. Mate Sylvester Day Piece Establishment Signed P. Hanks Lieut of Aty Comg

[C 676-p 189]

115

MAJ. GEN. BROCK TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Fort George July 20th 1812

Sir

My last to Your Excellency was dated the 12th Instant, since which nothing extraordinary has occurred on this Communication—The enemy has evidently diminished his force, and appears to have no intention of making an immediate attack—

I have herewith the honor of enclosing the copy of two letters which I have received from Lt. Col. St. George, together with some interesting documents found on board a schooner which the boats of the Hunter captured on her voyage from the Meamie to Detroit.

From the accompanying official correspondence between General Hull and the Secretary at War it appears that the collected force which has arrived at Detroit amounts to about two thousand

I have requested Colonel Proctor to proceed to Amherstburg, and ascertain accurately the state of things in that quarter—I had every inclination to go there myself, but the meeting of the Legislature on the 27th renders it impossible.

I receive this moment a despatch dated the 15th Instant from Lt Col St George giving an account of the enemy having landed on the 12th and immediately after occupying the

village of Sandwich—It is strange that three days should be allowed to elapse before sending to acquaint me of this important fact, I had no idea until I received Lt Colonel St. George's letter a few days ago that General Hull was advancing with such a large force.

The Militia from every account behaved very ill, The officers appear the most in fault. Colonel Proctor will probably reach Amherstburg in the course of tomorrow—I have great dependence in that officers decision, but fear he will arrive too late to be of much service—The enemy was not likely to delay attacking a force that had allowed him to cross the river in open day without firing a shot.

The position which Lt. Col. St George occupied is very good, and infinitely more formidable than the port itself—Should he therefore be compelled to retire I know of no other alternative than embarking in the Kings vessels—and proceeding to Fort Erie—1

1 British post on the Niagara river, nearly opposite Buffalo.

Were it proper to animate the Militia to a proper sense of their duty something might yet be done, but I almost despair

Your Excellency will readily perceive the critical situation in which the 116 reduction of Amherstburg is sure to place me—I do not imagine General Hull will be able to detach more than one thousand men, but even with that trifling force I much fear he will succeed in getting to my rear. The Militia will not act without a strong Regular force to set them the example, and as must now expect to be seriously threatened from the opposite shore, I cannot, in prudence, make strong detachments, which would not only weaken my line of defence, but in the event of a retreat endanger their safety.

I have never, as Your Excellency has doubtless noticed, been very sanguine in my hopes of Assistance from the Militia, and I am now given to understand that General Hulls insidious proclamation herewith enclosed has already been productive of considerable effect on the minds of the people. In fact a general sentiment prevails that with the present

force resistance is unavailing, I shall continue to exert myself to the utmost to overcome every difficulty, should however, the communication between Kingston and Montreal be cut off the fate of the troops in this part of the Province will be decided—I now express my apprehensions on a supposition that the slender means Your Excellency possesses will not admit of diminution, consequently that I cannot look for reinforcements.

The enemy evidently has no intention at present of penetrating into the Province by this strait, He seems much more inclined to work on the flanks, after they are secured little remains for him to do—

The last official communication from the Lower Province is dated the 25 ulto. The Adjutant general then announced the receipt of Intelligence by a mercantile house of war being declared by the United States against Great Britain. I need not entreat Your Excellency to honor me with your commands with as little delay as possible, I consider every moment exceedingly precious.

I have the honor to be With the highest respect Your Excellency's faithful and obedt servant Isaac Brock M G

His Excellency L Gen Sir George Prevost Bt &c &c &c

[C 676-p 203.]

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MAJ. GEN. BROCK TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Fort George July 26th 1812

Sir

Since my despatch to your Excellency of the 20th Instant, I have received information of the Enemy having made frequent and extensive inroads from Sandwich up the River Thames—I have in Consequence been induced to detach Captain Chambers with about 50 of the 41st Regiment to the Moraviantown where I have directed two hundred Militia to join him—From the loud and apparently warm professions of the Indians residing on the Grand River, I make no doubt of finding at all times a large majority ready to take the field, and act in conjunction with our troops but accounts received this morning state that they have determined to remain neutral, and had in consequence refused (with the exception of about 50) to join Chamber's detachment.

I meditated, the moment I could Collect a sufficient Number of Militia, a diversion to the Westward, in the hope of Compelling General Hull to retreat across the River, but this unexpected intelligence has ruined the whole of my plans—The Military which I destined for this service will now be alarmed, and unwilling to leave their families to the mercy of 400 Indians, whose Conduct affords such wide room for suspision—and really to expect that this fickle race would remain in the midst of War in a state of neutrality is truly absurd—The Indians have probably been led to this change of sentiment by emissaries from General Hull, whose proclamation to the six nations is herewith enclosed.1

1 This report of Gen. Brock strengthens the opinion of military critics that Hull should have moved toward Burlington and made a successful campaign of it.

I have not deemed it of sufficient importance to Commence active operations on this line, by an attack on Fort Niagara. It can be demolished when found necessary in half an hour, and there my means of annoyance would terminate—To enable the Militia to organise some degree of discipline without interruption is of the greater Consequence than such a Conquest.

Everything shall be done in my power to overcome the difficulties by which I am surrounded, but without strong re-enforcements, I fear the Country Cannot be roused to make exertions equal, without support, to meet the present crisis.

I proceed immediately to York to attend the meeting of the Legislature—I hope to return on Wednesday—The charge of this frontier will in the meantime devolve on Lt Colonel Meyers, who appears worthy of every Confidence.

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The actual invasion of the Province, has compelled me to recall that portion of the Militia whom I permitted to return home and work at harvest—I am prepared to hear of much discontent in consequence The disaffected will take advantage of it and add fuel to the flame but it may not be without reason that I may be accused of having already studied to the injury of service, their Convenience & humour.

I should have derived much consolation in the Midst of my present difficulties had I been honored, previous to the meeting of the Legislature, with Your Excellency's determination in regard to this Province—That it Cannot be maintained with its present force is very obvious, and unless the enemy be driven from Sandwich it will be impossible to avert much longer the impending ruin of the Country—Numbers have already joined the invading Army, commotions are excited and late occurrences at Sandwich have spread a General Gloom.

I have not heard from Lt Colonel St. George nor from any individual at Amherstburg, since I last had the honor of addressing Your Excellency, which make me apprehensive that Colonel Proctor has been detained on his journey too long for the good of the service.

The Enemys Cavalry amounts to about 50 they are led by one Watson a surveyor from Montreal of a desperate character, this fellow has been allowed to parade with about 20 men of the same description as far as Westminster, vowing as they went along the most

bitter vengence against the first Characters of the Province—Nothing Can show more strongly the state of apathy which exists in that part of the Country—I am perhaps too liberal in attributing their conduct of the inhabitants to that cause.

Mr. Couche has represented to the head of his department the total impractibility of Carrying on the public service without a remittance in specie, or a Government paper substitute—He was once in expectation of making arrangements with some individuals that would have enabled him to proceed, but I much fear the whole project has fallen to the ground—The Militia on this Communication was so clamorous for their pay that I directed Mr. Couche to make the necessary advances—This has drained him of the little specie in his possession.

My present civil office not only authorizes me to convene General Courts Martial for the trial of offenders belonging to the Militia but likewise the infliction of the Sentence of death — whilst in regard to the Military my power is limited to the mere Assembling of the Court. I beg leave to submit to the Consideration of Your Excellency whether in time like the present I ought not to be invested with equal Authority over each service.

I herewith have the honor to transmit two letters one from Captain 119 Roberts Commanding at St. Joseph, and the second from Mr. Dickson a Gentleman every way Capable of forming a correct judgement of the Actual state of the Indians nothing can be more deplorable than his description Yet the United States' Government accuse Great Britain of instigating that people to War—Is not the true Cause to be found in the state of desparation to which they are reduced by the unfriendly and unjust measures of that Government towards them?—

I have the honor to be with the highest respect Your Excellency's Most obedt and humble Servt Isaac Brock M. Genl.

His Excellency Lt Genl. Sir George Prevost Bt &c. &c. &c.

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[C 676-p. 208.]

COLONEL PROCTOR TO MAJ. GEN. BROCK

(*War—1812*)

Amherstburg July 26th 1812

Dear Sir

After much vexations delay from very windy weather &c I arrived here at day break this morning. You received by the Hunter a correct statement of the Enemy's force and have since been informed that he crossed the River on the 12 Instant and took post above Sandwich—On the evening of the 16th he attacked a Picquet, and I regret to say, cut off two Sentries of the 41st Regiment, who were on the other side the Bridge on the River Canard,1 and killed one and wounded the other, both refusing to surrender. There has been skirmishing two or three times on the Canard which is about five miles from here, in which the enemy have lost men—On the 25th they advanced to a Fork of the River, were attacked by the Indians and retreated with the loss of some killed, the Indians having one killed and another wounded. I send you a return of the strength of the Garrison of Amherstburg by which you will perceive how much the Militia have diminished—It is said, and I hope, many of them will return when they have gotten in their harvest, but neither the Militia nor the Indians who are very deficient of the number you would suppose will ever remain with us if a considerable reinforcement does not arrive here. Five hundred of the 41st would I am confident, soon decide matters. The Enemy's Arts and misrepresentations have operated strongly on both the Indians and People of this country,

1 Debouches into the Detroit river near Fighting island south of Sandwich. French name—Riviere aux Canards. It is about opposite mouth of the Ecorse on the American side.

 among whom their agents now appear. You have received Mr. Hull's infamous Proclamation, and I herewith send you a copy of what I conceive to be very interesting

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Letters from him, intercepted and which I regret were not sent sooner. The originals shall be sent by the Lady Prevost—

I do not apprehend that this Post is in any immediate Danger, but I am fully convinced of the necessity of a reinforcement, I conceive it only prudent to keep the Queen Charlotte here, she is a very considerable check on the Enemy, I enclose a Return of Prisoners and request to know whether they are to be sent down. You will be surprised to know that the greatest number of Indians, among are were several Boys, that the utmost exertion of the Indian Department could collect did not exceed Two hundred and thirty—this was on the 18th instant and they have rather decreased since thirty—this was on the 18th instant and they have rather decreased since

In haste I remain Dear Sir with Respect faithfully yours Henry Proctor 1 Colonel Comg

1 See appendix.

P. S. The return is enclosed to the Brigade Major

Major General Brock &c &c &c Niagara

[C 676-p 242.]

MR. BABY TO CAPTAIN GLEGG

(*War—1812*)

Dundas street 30 Miles from York 27th July 9 o'Clock P. M.

Sir

I am just arrived at this place—I hasten to write as I understand it is likely General Brock will go back to Niagara immediately—should it be his pleasure to see me before he goes, I will be in York tomorrow as soon as I can. I have not been able to procure a fresh horse,

mine is completely tired after a Jaunt by the way of Pointe Péti. I coasted the Lake to Colonel Talbots1 settlement. I left Amherstburg in the afternoon of last Monday. I met Colonel Proctor on Thursday, bound by the wind six or seven Miles above Colonel Talbots —

From the weather we have had, he must be now at Amherstburg, on last saturday sen' night a party of about one hundred and fifty Americans came to the River Canard and skirmished with a party of our people, they wounded two men of the 41st one died, the other was expected also to die. The Americans were repulsed. The next day, sunday, they returned to the same place, and began the skirmish; they were again repulsed, lost four men and had several wounded, they retreated with great precipitation and were followed 121 by a few Indians some considerable distance; some of our boats went as far as Turkey Creek. The Americans had already got beyond it, on their way to Sandwich—about Eleven or twelve at noon on Monday last the Queen Charlotte anchored opposite the mouth of the Canard, made signal that a large party was coming again to the Canard Bridge—a party of the 41st were on the south side of the Bridge and a good number of Indians had gone to join them—An Express came from the place where a third action had taken place, and informed that our party with two field pieces repulsed the Americans who had brought four pieces with them—I have no doubt but they were more Completely beaten than before—We were forced to come away before the issue—We had not more than about 230 Indians when I left Amherstburg—A report prevailed that about 300 were expected from the River Huron near the mouth of the River, and a like number from St Joseph's under Mr Robert Dixon (Dickson). God Grant they may be there—There were still between three and four hundred Militia when I came away—a great number had withdrawn themselves to go to the harvest—I have no letters from Colonel St George for the General, tho' he told me he would write—I called, and sent for his letter, but did not get it—He had gone to the River Canard. sorry to say that the Volunteers of Long Point whom I saw yesterday have refused to March, not one is gone to join Major Chambers1 —I fear those of Oxford will follow their bad example—I parted with Colonel Talbot yesterday about four

or five oClock P. M. he was going to Burford—I should not omit to say there is a great want of balls for the Indians—The Hurons have done all they could to dissuade the other nations from joining us—I heard that Norton2 instead of 150 to 200 of the six nations could hardly get fifty to go up to the westward—we want immediate assistance in that quarter, I write this from Dundas street at John Clever's, and send it by a Missisage to overtake you, before you go over.

1 Major Peter L. Chambers, 41st regiment, deputy assistant quartermaster general.

2 See appendix.

In case the General would wish for more information than I can give in this paper—I have written in the dark therefore excuse this scrawl—If the General goes round the Lake I may meet him at the Credit—2

I give you this rough detail for his information

I remain Sir (signed) &c &c &c J. Baby

27th July 1812 9 P. M.

To Cap: Glegg &c &c

[C 676-p 219.] 16

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MAJ. GEN. BROCK TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

York July 28th 1812

Sir :

I consider the enclosed letter this instant received from the Honble James Baby of sufficient importance to forward by express.

I conceived the Long point Militia the most likely to show the best disposition of any in this part of the Country, and this refusal to join Captain Chambers indicates the little reliance that ought to be placed in any of them—My situation is getting each day more critical I still mean to try and send a force to the relief of Amherstburg, but almost dispair of succeeding—The population, though I had no great confidence in the majority, is worse than I expected to find it. and a majistrates &c &c appear quite confounded, and decline acting—the consequence is the most improper conduct is tolerated—The officers of Militia exert no authority, every thing shows as if a certainty existed of a change taking place soon. But I still hope the arrival of re-enforcements may yet avert such a dire calamity—many in that case would become active in our cause who are now dormant.

I have the honor herewith to transmit a copy of my speech to the two houses delivered yesterday, a more decent House has not been elected since the formation of the province, but I perceive at once that I shall get no good of them1 —They like the Majistrates and others in office, evidently mean to remain passive The repeal of the Habeas Corpus will not pass. And if I have recourse to the law Martial I am told the whole armed force will disperse, never was an officer placed in a more awkward predicament—The Militia cannot possibly be governed by the present law—all admit that fact, Yet the fear of giving offence will prevent any thing effectual being effected—I entreat the advice of your Excellency! some letters received from individuals represent the conduct of 41st above all praise—I cannot get a line from Colonel St George. Colonel Proctor was provokingly delayed on his Journey—I entreat Your Excellency to excuse the haste with which I presume to address you—

1 Gen. Brock was also lieutenant governor of Upper Canada—now Ontario, and as such dealt with the provincial legislature.

I have the honor to be with sentiments of the highest regard and respect

Your Excellency's faithful and Obedient servant Isaac Brock M. G.

His Excellency M General Sir George Prevost B &c

[C 676-p 217.]

123

MAJ. GEN. BROCK TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

York July 29th 1812

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith a dispatch this instant received from Captain Roberts announcing the surrender by capitulation on the 17th Instant of Fort Michillimackinac.

The conduct of this officer since his appointment to the command of that distant part of the Province,has been distinguished by much zeal and judgment, and his recent eminent display of those qualities, Your Excellency will find, has been attended with the most happy effect.

The Militia stationed here volunteered this morning without the least hesitation their services to any part of the Province—I have selected one hundred whom I have directed to proceed without delay to Long point—where I propose collecting a force for the relief of Amherstburg—This example, I hope, will be followed by as many as may be required. —By the Militia law a man refusing to march may be fined five pounds, or confined three months, and although I have assembled the Legislature for the express purpose of amending the Act, I much fear nothing material will be done. Your Excellency will scarcely

believe that this infortunate House of Assembly have refused by a majority of two to suspend for a limited time the Habeas Corpus—1

1 Thereby rendering ineffective any attempts of the military power to exercise a strong hand on civilians.

Your Excellency Most obedient servant Isaac Brock M. G.

His Excellency Lt Genl Sir George Prevost Bt &c &c &c

[C 676-p 236.]

FROM MAJ. GEN. BROCK—UNADDRESSED

(*War—1812*)

York July 29th 1812

Dear Colonel

I was not favored with your letters of the 8th and 10th Instant untill this morning. I had not before received any official communication of war 124 being declared, and I assure you, began to fear I was wholly forgot. My situation is most critical, not from anything the enemy can do, but from the disposition of the people—the population, believe me is essentially bad—a full belief possess them all that this Province must inevitably succumb—this prepossession is fatal to every exertion—Legislators, Magistrates, Militia Officers, all, have imbibed the idea, and are so sluggish and indifferent in their respective offices that the artful and active scoundrel is allowed to parade the country without interruption, and commit all imaginable mischief—They are so alarmed of offending that they rather encourage than repress disorders or other improper acts.1 I really believe it is with some cause they dread the vengeance of the Democratic party, they are such a set of unrelenting villains, but to business—Several of my letters must have miscarried otherwise

you would long since have been aware that I requested you to reinstate Lieut. Johnston in the Glengary Regiment—He may not be very efficient but then consider the claims of his family—Indeed the proposition came originally from you. Should Johnston be rejected, I am under previous engagements to *Lamont* therefore cannot give ear to Fitz-Gibbons' application.

1 With habeas corpus suspended these fellows could be handled in a way agreeable to the general.

I have necessarily so many detachments along my widely extended frontier that I cannot possibly spare an officer, I have therefore detained Lt. Kerr of the Glengary I am obliged mix regulars with the Militia, otherwise could not get on at all. It is a pity you did not understand his wishes in regard to the recruiting business.

What a change an additional regiment would make in this part of the Province. Most of the people have lost all confidence. I however speak loud and look big—Altho' you may not be able to cast a look this far, you must not omit Johnson and Kingston, some regulars will be highly necessary. I wish very much something might be done for Mr. Grant Powell. He was regularly brought up in England as a Surgeon. I intended to have proposed to Sir George to appoint him permanent Surgeon to the Marine Department, but I scarcely think that the situation would now answer His abilities I should think might be usefully employed now that so many troops are called out—

Messrs Dickson, Porthier and Crawford behaved nobly at the capture of Michilimackinac—This event may give a total change to the war in the West—Captain Roberts is spoken of in the highest terms—

I must bid you adieu Yours faithfully Isaac Brock

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I propose provided the 41st agree to receive Lieut. Cartwright to allow him to return to his duty in that corps.

[C 676-p 239.]

COLONEL PROCTOR TO MAJ. GEN. BROCK

(*War—1812*)

Amherstburg July 30th 1812

Dear Sir

The morning after my arrival I sent off express to you the trusty Canddian by whom you had received Lieutenant Colonel St George's Letter of the 11th Instant, and on the evening of the 28th I had the disappointment of his return back, having narrowly escaped the Enemy near Point Aux Pins.—His Majesty's Schooner Lady Prevost sails this morning, as does also the schooner Nancy, that these may be at Fort Erie, Conveyance for an effectual Reinforcement—which from the Confidence it must inspire, would Cause the return of many who have left the Militia, and also ensure a powerful Aid from the Indians of whom the Enemy are much in dread.—It would be imprudent to send away the Queen Charlotte, especially as the Adams is I understand nearly ready.—

Mr Hull1 I believe awaits the defection of the Militia and Indians, and which I am confident will occur if we do not soon receive a reinforcement.—The Enemy expects a Reinforcement, which, if received after we are enabled to act, may be of less importance to him.—I am sorry to observe that the Individuals of the Department are too old for actual service, nor does ability or cordiality appear in the performance of its duties.—I have been under the necessity of sanctioning the appointment of some active Interpreters.—With respect to the Militia officers, I feel myself at a loss how to act; they are in number out of all proportion to the strength of their Corps, and in general unequal to the performance of

their Duties—If they should be retained in proportion to the strength only of their Corps, most of them would be driven, having no support, to seek their property where the Enemy are, and their Corps to which I still hope to see many return, would be disbanded.—I hope soon to hear of the completion of the arrangements for the payment of the Militia.—I found no sources ascertained for procuring certain information respecting the Enemy and which I might reasonably have expected,

1 See appendix.

126 where it must have been so easily effected, if attended to in time, by residents in the interest of Government.

I have the honor &c (signed) Henry Proctor Colonel

P. S. I have conceived it expedient to send by this opportunity the four officers who were detained Prisoners of war, on the 2nd Instant.

Major General Brock &c &c &c Niagara

[C 676-p 245.]

MAJ. GEN. BROCK TO COLONEL BAYNES

(*War—1812*)

York August 4th 1812

My Dear Colonel

I cannot hear what is going on at Amherstburg. I begin to be uneasy for Proctor, should any accident befall him I shall begin to despond for the fate of Amherstburg—I am collecting a force at Long Point with a view to afford him relief, but until I receive information of the state of affairs in that quarter, I cannot move, The last letter from Col:

St George is dated the 15th written three days after Genl Hull crossed the river with his Army,—Mr. Baby Comg the Militia who has arrived here to attend his parliamentary duties, brought accounts to the 20th on which day, and at the very moment he was setting off, an attack was making on our post, the particulars of which he, of course, is unable to relate, but he heard that some one had arrived from the field who stated that the Enemy was retiring—An Indian has since reported that he counted 30 dead bodies, and that the Americans had besides many wounded, This attack must have been made in great force,

Believe, me &c Isaac Brock M. G.

Colonel Baynes

[C 677-p 1.]

127

COLONEL VINCENT TO COLONEL BAYNES

(*War—1812*)

Montreal 4th August 1812.

Dear Colonel

I am at a loss, whether or not I should detain the enclosed dispatches until your arrival, but a Mr N. Coffin assures me, you will not leave Quebec before Wednesday—I think it far the best to forward all the letters I have in one parcel and send them in the way bag of the courier, with instructions that he must not pass you on the road,—Major General Sheaffe1 arrived last night and proposes setting off for the upper country tomorrow—from the correspondence I have had with the officers of Militia from Cornwall to Prescott—I can assure him every protection—

1 See appendix.

Last night a light canoe arrived from Lake Superior, with some gentlemen of the North West Company—who have brought the account of the taking of the Fort of Michilimackinac and the enclosed dispatches for you from Captain Roberts They likewise report that Governor Hull has twice been repulsed in attempting to pass the Canard bridge about six miles from Amherstburg, I hope therefore we shall soon have a good account of him.

I remain Dear Colonel Your obliged humble servant John Vincent 1

Colonel Baynes &c &c &c

[C 677-p 8.]

GENERAL DEARBORN TO COLONEL BAYNES

(*War—1812*)

Head Quarters Greenbush , August 8th 1812

Colonel Baynes

Sir

Feeling the strongest disposition to accord with the propositions of His Excellency, Sir George Prevost as expressed in his dispatch, which I have had the honor of receiving by your hand this day,—I have only to regret my want of power to comply with it, in the fullest & most explicit manner;—but as far as I consider myself authorised, I will with pleasure proceed in preventing any unnecessary acts of hostility, between the troops of the United States, & those of his Britanic Majesty.—I will

1 See appendix, note to p. 136.

128 give immediate orders to the Commanding officers in Vermont, & those on the frontier of New York, to confine their operations to defensive measures;—I will write to General Hull, & state to him the facts, in relation to the communication made by Sir George Prevost, & advise him to suspend all offensive operations, unless his orders from the Department of War are such as to leave him no option,—I will write to the executive of the United States, & enclose a copy of his Excellency's proposition, & state the measures I have taken, & the directions I shall transmit to the respective officers on the Frontiers.—

I am, Sir, with respect & consideration Your obedt st. H. Dearborn .1

1 See appendix.

[C 677-p 16.]

GENERAL DEARBORN TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Head Quarters Greenbush August 8th 1812

His Excellency Sir George Prevost.

Governor, and Commander in Chief of the Forces in Canada

Sir

I have this day been honored with Your Excellency's letter, by the hand of Col. Baynes, and I have communicated to him my answer to your proposition, in relation to a suspension of hostilities. The measure I have proposed will be as promptly carried into effect, as the distance to the respective posts will admit of.—I can with confidence assure your Excellency, that my Government will with pleasure meet any overtures, for a satisfactory adjustment, of all disputes with Great Britain.—No other nations are as

deeply interested in a friendly intercourse with each other as Great Britain, and the United states of America, and I most ardently hope, that the time is not far distant, when they will embrace as friends.—

With sentiments of high Consideration & respect, I am, Sir, Your most obedient H. Dearborn .

[C 677-p 14.]

129

COLONEL PROCTOR TO MAJ. GEN. BROCK

(*War—1812*)

Amherstburg Augt 11th 1812

Dear Sir

Since the 25th Ulto: the Enemy has made no attempt on this side of the River; on the 2d Inst the Wyndots having at last decided on joining the other nations of Indians of whom they are the bravest and Eldest, against the Americans; a considerable Body of Indians accompanied the Chief Tecumseth to the Village of the Wyndots, (Brownstown) nearly thirty miles on the opposite Shore from Detroit, and five from hence. I sent a detachment of a hundred men under the command of Captain Muir to enable the Wyndots to bring off their families cattle & effects. This was effected much to the Disappointment of Mr. Hull who has given them a considerable sum of money in the hope of retaining them in the American Interest. Tecumseth who has generally many Indians with him remained, by which Mr. Hulls Communication with his Government was interrupted. On the 5th inst a select Detachment of two hundred Riflemen from several Corps were sent to escort the Mail from Detroit which however they lost, and about fifty killed. I had sent a detachment but they Unfortunately could not reach the scene of action until the affair was finished. The

Indians only lost one man, an interpreter. I enclose a copy of Mr. Hull's Letter to Secretary at War:1 Saturday (the 8th) being the usual day of the Posts arrival at Detroit every Road and Indian Path was occupied, on the 7th 8th & 9th Inst in the hope of intercepting the Mail for Detroit as well as expected supplies. On the 9th on finding that a considerable body of the Enemy were on the March to Brownstown, I sent a reinforcement under Captain Muir which Completed the Force there to 150 men besides Indians, whose numbers it is not possible on any occasion exactly to ascertain. In this Affair we have not entirely succeeded. The Enemy had some Artillery, which their numbers enabled them to make a Road for. The Ground on which the Americans had been so roughly treated on the 5th Inst: was not as it ought to have been, occupied, and some mistake was made, the Party retreated, the 41 has lost three, Dead, thirteen wounded, & two missing. Militia one killed, & two wounded. Indians two killed and six wounded. Captain Muir is slightly wounded, Mr. Sutherland seriously wounded. I can ill spare Captain Muir's services, for ever so short a time. He is a good brave officer. It was a Warm Action and the officers behavied well. Some Militia officers were Volunteers & acted with spirit. The Enemy's Loss has been Considerable, We are all in good spirits—I detained the Express in hopes of 17

1 See appendix.

130 sending some information from the Mail—I have heard from Captain Chambers, & from Norton1 whom I hope soon to see here

I remain Dear Sir With Respect, faithfully Yours Henry Proctor Col. comg

Major General Brock & & Fort George The Militia are coming in, and Indians also

H. P.

[C 677-p 18.]

FROM COLONEL BAYNES—UNADDRESSED

(*War—1812*)

Montreal August 12th 1812

Sir

I have the honor to report that in obedience with Your Excellency's commands, I have proceeded with every dispatch, I was permitted to make to Albany, and had the honor to deliver Your Excellency's despatches to Major General Dearborn the evening of the 8th Instant.

General Dearborn received me with politeness and affability, assured me that the sentiments expressed in Your Excellency's Letter corresponded so entirely with his own that he regretted extremely that he did not think himself authorized to comply with your proposal in its fullest extent, but that having received specific instructions for his guidance in which an occurrence like the present had not been contemplated he could not take upon himself to conclude an armistice but he would have no hesitation in giving positive orders to the generals and officers commanding frontier stations to confine themselves to a line of conduct strictly defensive until further orders, that he would report the same to the Executive Government and in the event of this measure being disapproved of he would instantly communicate the information to Your Excellency, and in Countermanding the orders directing the officers to observe a defensive line of conduct, he would strictly enjoin their abstaining from any hostile operation until the expiration of four days of twenty-four hours each had elapsed after notice being received by the party not breaking the Armistice, as this arrangement would 131 embrace in its operation the principal objects Your Excellency had in view I readily engaged that a similar line of conduct would be observed by the British Forces.1 General Dearborn observed that tho' “Brigadier General Hull was nominally under his command, yet in matter of fact he had not any control over that officer, who acted under specific instructions direct from the Executive Government, that he would however write to General Hull and inform him of the engagements he had

entered into and recommend his...adopting a similar line of conduct if compatible with his instructions. I have furnished General Dearborn with orders to the officers commanding at Fort George, Amherstburg and Kingston to be despatched by the same Messenger charged with the General's orders to the officers commanding at the corresponding Posts on the American frontier.....directing them to observe a line of conduct strictly defensive on receiving a similar assurance from the Enemy. I have at the same time cautioned them to observe the strictest vigilence and to be prepared for any event that may arise.

1 See appendix.

The officer commanding at Amherstburg is directed to adopt a defensive line of conduct on receiving assurance from General Hull that he will rigidly observe the same.

General Dearborn observed that considerable re-inforcements with ordnance and stores were on their route to the Western frontier, & that he could neither delay nor alter their destination—I informed the General that we also had troops escorting stores to the Upper Province, and if he pleased, that it should be agreed that all detachments with Convoys should be suffered to pass unmolested by troops under orders to observe defensive measures to which he assented.

General Dearborn deprecated in strong language the employing the Indians in our contest, and insinuated that the disposition originated with the British, and inferring that the Conduct of America was free from that reproach, I refuted this insinuation by assuring the general that we were in possession of intercepted letters of General Hull affording indubitable proof that he had not only entered into engagements with Indian Tribes but had employed emissaries to endeavor to gain over those supposed to be attached to the British Interests, that it was highly to be lamented the necessity of employing such means but as it was well known the disposition of these people would always lead them to take an active part it was a matter of necessity to prevent their decision being in favor of our Enemy.

General Dearborn objected to these mutual engagements being drawn up in writing and exchanging Copies. He observed that it would give it more the appearance of a Convention which he was not authorized to form—that 132 he had in proceeding the length he had done perhaps exceeded his instructions; he did it with the best intentions for the welfare of both Nations, & in good faith he trusted, to the honor & integrity of the British Government, and that Your Excellency might rely on these engagements being faithfully observed by him.—

I wrote a minute of these engagements in General Dearborns presence, and in reading these to him he objected only to a single term, and on my substituting “Defensive Measures” for “suspended Hostility” he said he agreed to that arrangement and would observe it on his honor.

The General delivered to me a letter for Your Excellency and one stating his acceptance of the proposal in a limited degree.

I have the honor to subjoin a minute of such Military and political remarks and observations as I was enabled to make during the Six days I was employed in executing the orders which your Excellency was pleased to Commit to my charge

I have &c (signed) Edwd Baynes Col: & Adgt General

Endorsed: Copy of Col. Bayne's Report upon his Mission to Albany with dispatches for General Dearborn.

[C 677-p 22.]

MAJ. GEN. BROCK TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Head Quarters Detroit August 16th 1812

Sir ,

I hasten to apprize Your Excellency of the Capture of this very important Post—2,500 troops have this day surrendered Prisoners of War, and about 25 pieces of Ordnance have been taken without the sacrifice of a drop of British blood,—I had not more than 700 troops including Militia, and about 400 Indians to accomplish this service,—When I detail my good fortune Your Excellency will be astonished.1 I have been admirably supported by Colonel Proctor, the whole of my staff and I may justly say every individual under my Command

1 He had anticipated much difficulty, but found the task easy; just to march up to the town.

Believe me Your Excellency's faithful obedt & humble servt (Signed) Isaac Brock Mr Gl

To His Excellency Lt Genl Sir Geo Prevost Bt

[C 677-p 45]

133

CONDITIONS PROPOSED AS THE BASIS OF A CONVENTION BETWEEN THE CITIZENS OF DETROIT AND COLONEL PROCTOR

First. A Force shall be stationed at Detroit for the Express Purpose of protecting the citizens from Slaughter, Conflagration and pillage.

Second. The Citizens shall be armed, and organized for the Aid of that Force, proper precautions being taken that it shall be applied to no other object.

Third.—The Force stationed at Detroit for the protection of the Citizens and British subjects found there at the Time—in case of an eventual change of Flag, not to be made or considered prisoners of war, but to be safely and honorably restored.

Fourth.—Colonel Proctor may name eighteen citizens, out of whom the citizens themselves will settle upon six, who shall be delivered as hostages.—

Fifth.—The Citizens will name eighteen persons, out of whom the Colonel will select six, to act as Commissioners, and to apprehend all who violate their neutrality, or give rise to probable suspicion thereof.

Sixth.—The Indians shall not be permitted to come within the country from the River Ecorse to Grosse Pointe, nor to carry scalps through the town.—

Seventh.—The convention may be communicated to the American General, or other Commander, by Flag, and be previously ratified by him.—

When General Montgomery took possession of Montreal he entered into a long Convention with the Citizens, differing, probably much from the preceding, but having similar objects

When the Marquis de Bouillé took possession of Tobago he stipulated that the *English subjects should bear arms for the preservation of order among the Black Population of the Island* :—1

1 Capt. McLean certifies to the correctness of the copy. The phrasing of this proposal gives support to the belief that it was framed by Judge Woodward.

A. H. McLean A. D. C.

A true copy

[C 678-p 69.]

LIEUT. COL. MYERS TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Fort George Upper Canada August 17 1812.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit to your Excellency a Letter from Colonel Proctor received yesterday, enclosing the Copy of an intercepted Dispatch 134 from Brigadier General Hull, dated at Sandwich, addressed to the American Secretary at War—the contents appear highly interesting, and lead to the certain hope of the overthrow of the Enemy's Force in that Quarter1

1 Col. Proctor's letter to Gen. Brock, ante p. 129.

I have &c Christo: Myers Lt: Col—

His Excellency Lieut General Sir George Prevost Bart Commander of the Forces & & &

[C 677-p 48.]

LIEUT. COL. MYERS TO COL. LETHBRIDGE

(*War—1812*)

Fort George August 22d 1812

Sir

I am directed by Major General Sheaffe to acquaint you, that in the expectation of your having received orders from Quebec to forward to this Post a portion of the reinforcements, which it is hoped have arrived at Kingston, and in consequence of my Private Letter to you of the 15th Instant—expressive of the anxiety of Major General

Brock upon that point, he has been on the look out for some of the vessels from Kingston appearing here with the Troops, particularly as the wind has been favorable for two Days.

The circumstance of the fall of Detroit, and the hourly expected arrival here of a number of Prisoners to be sent downward, added to the want of Troops on this line, in the event of a renewal of hostilities, induces Major General Sheaffe to direct me to desire that if the three companies of the 49th Regt, and the Detachment of the Newfoundland Regt have arrived at Kingston, you cause the whole of the former to be immediately embarked on board the Royal George & Duke of Gloucester & dispatched without delay to this Post, provided you have not received orders to the contrary from His Excellency the Commander of the Forces, or Major Genl Brock.

Camp Equipage for 300 Men is to accompany the Troops to this Station 135 and upon this subject I have forwarded orders to the Deputy Asst Qr Mastr Genl at Kingston.

I have &c &c (Signed) Christo Myers Lt Col D. Q. M. G.

Col Lethbridge &c &c &c Kingston

[C 677-p 53.]

MAJ. GEN. SHEAFFE TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Fort George 22nd August 1812

Sir ,

I have the honor of reporting to Your Excellency that on my arrival at this post on the 10th Instant, I found that a letter had arrived from Colonel Baynes, addressed to the officer commanding here, to apprise him that an armistice had been agreed on; & a

correspondence on the subject had been opened between Lieut Colonel Myers and M. General Van Rensselaer; after my arrival several conferences were held between officers appointed for the purpose, a difficulty as to the terms having arisen, founded on a variation between those stated in Colonel Baynes's letter, and instructions which General Van Renssalaer1 had received from General Dearborn, and which required a stipulation on our part that no reinforcements &c should be sent up to the troops opposed to B. General Hull;—this obstacle was removed in an unexpected manner:—I went up to Queenstown on the 20th Inst accompanied by Lt Colonel Myers and Brigade Major Evans, and I sent the latter over to Lewiston with my propositions;—on his return he informed me that objections were made to some of them, and that Colonel Van Rensselaer1 —A. D. C. to the General, would come over to me to enter into an explanatory discussion, before his arrival the Express came to me with the intelligence of M. General Brock's important success—it was not communicated to him, but some time was employed in discussion before I acceded to the obligation not to send up reinforcements without four days previous notice, thinking it prudent to avoid exciting suspicion by too ready an assent: I have the honor of transmitting the Articles agreed on, and it is, moreover understood that boats are not to be assembled at any

1 See appendix.

136 point on either side, under cover of the privilege granted therein—I also enclose herewith a copy of a letter which Lt Colonel Myers has written by my direction to Colonel Lethbridge.

Since L Colonel Myers's letter of the 17th Instant considerable reinforcements are said to have joined the Enemy at Blackrock, and a Camp capable of holding at least eight hundred men has been formed at Lewiston, on the 18th there were seventy tents in which it was reported there were six hundred men, but L. Colonel Myers having caused a few blank cartridges to be fired in quick succession to create alarm and make them turn out, it

had the desired effect, and he did not discover more than two hundred men;—since that period, however, the number of tents has been increased to more than a hundred—

The wind has been unfavourable to M. General Brock for several days or he would probably have arrived here by this time.—

I have the honour to be, Your Excellency's Most obedient, and most humble Servant, R. H. Sheaffe 1 M. Genl. &c &c

1 See appendix.

His Excellency Sir George Prevost &c &c &c

[C 677-p 55.]

GENERAL DEARBORN TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

His Excellency Sir George Prevost

Head Quarters Greenbush 2 Aug 26th 1812

2 Greenbush lies 290 miles from the Niagara frontier where Dearborn's command was stationed.

Sir

It is with regret I have to inform Your Excellency, that the President of the United States has received no official information, from your Government, which will warrant a continuance of the provisional measure, that was temporarily agreed on, between Your Excellency (through the agency of Col Baynes) and myself. I have therefore to inform Your Excellency, that at the expiration of four days, from the time that this Communication shall

137 have reached the Commanding officer at Montreal, and Copies to the same effect, shall have been received to the respective Commanding officers, on the frontiers: viz: at Niagara, & Ogdensburgh, on the side of the United States;—and the British Commanding officer, in Upper Canada, at Niagara & Kingston.

I shall consider the arrangement before alluded to for a Mutual suspension of active hostilities, as no longer obligatory on either party1 —And if a suspension of offensive operations, shall have been mutually consented to between Genl Hull, and the Commanding officer of the British force at or near Detroit, as proposed they will respectively be authorised, at the expiration of four days, subsequent to their receiving copies of the communication,—to consider themselves released from any agreement, thus entered into.—

1 See appendix. 18

Captain Pinkney, one of my Aides-de-Camps—is charged with the conveyance of this Communication to Your Excellency, or to the commanding at Montreal.—I have sent Copies of this communication, to the respective commanding officers on the side of the United States, on the frontiers, with Copies directed to the British Commanding officers at Niagara, Kingston, & Detroit—and directions to have the Copies, intended for the British officers—respectively conveyed to them without delay.

I cannot on this occasion refrain from expressing to Your Excellency, my ardent wish, that measures may speedily be adopted, for effecting such an honorable & permanent peace between our Governments as will establish the most harmonious intercourse between the two nations, so deeply interested in the offices of reciprocal friendship—

With great consideration & respect I have the honor to be Your Excellencys Obedt Servnt H. Dearborn

[C 677-p 58.]

Library of Congress

LIEUT. COL. PROCTOR TO SECRETARY FREER

(*Command Money*)

Detroit August 28th 1812

Sir

Permit me to request some Information respecting the command money 138 for the Time I was at Fort George. I have not received any since my arrival in the Upper Province.

I remain, Sir Your Obedient humble Servant Henry Proctor Lt Colonel III Regt & Colonel

Noah Freer Esqre Military Secretary Quebec

[C 102-p 87.]

RETURN OF CAPTURED SUPPLIES

I do certify that Captain Chambers of the 41st Regiment has delivered into His Majestys Magazines at this Post, the undermentioned species and quantities of provisions and spirits (captured by him from the enemy at the Miami) to be paid for by the Commissary.

Flour Thirteen Thousand & Sixty Eight pounds

Pork Three Thousand Seven hundred and twenty four pounds

Whiskey one Hundred and fifty gallons

Signed Robert Reynolds D. A. C. General

Amherstburg 28th August 1812

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N. B. the price of the above named articles as follows.

Flour Eight dollars per barrell

Pork nineteen do per do

Whiskey one dollar per gallon1

1 Then a low priced commodity. The abundant crops of Ohio gave distillers cheap corn; and there was no internal revenue tax on liquors.

[C 695-p 59.]

FROM SIR GEORGE PREVOST—UNADDRESSED

(*War—1812*)

Montreal 29th August 1812

Sir

I beg leave to enclose herewith for Your Excellency's information the copy of a letter I have just received from Major General Brock announcing 139 to me the surrender of fort Detroit on the 16th Instant By Brigadier General Hull with the Army under his command; I shall have the pleasure of transmitting to you the particulars of this affair as soon as they have reached me from Upper Canada, which I am daily expecting.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellency's most obedient humble servant (signed) George Prevost Comg the Forces

[C 677-p 62.]

MAJ. GEN. BROCK TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Fort George September 7th 1812

Sir ,

On my arrival here yesterday morning I found that intimation had been received by Major General Sheaffe of the intention of the enemy to renew hostilities at noon to-morrow1 . During the cessation of hostilities vast supplies have been received by the enemy. His field Artillery is numerous, and I have reason to believe his heavy ordnance has been considerably encreased. He is now busy erecting batteries in front of Fort George, and every thing indicates an intention of commencing active operations. Reinforcements of troops of every description have evidently arrived—

1 See appendix.

I have sent to Amherstburg for such troops as conceived the state of affairs in that quarter enabled him to part with—Colonel Vincent has likewise been written to on the same subject. The prodigious quantity of Pork and Flower which have been observed landing on the opposite shore from a number of Vessels and larger boats which have entered the river during the Armistice are sufficient to supply the wants for a long period of a considerable force.

I expect an attack almost immediately. The enemy will either turn my left flank which he may easily accomplish during a calm night, or attempt to force his way across under cover of his artillery. We stand greatly in want of officers, men, and heavy ordnance. Captain Holcroft has been indefatigable, and has done every thing in the power of an individual, but on such an extended line assistance is necessary.

I look every day for the arrival of five 24 pounders from Detroit, and other 140 Artillery and stores which are not required there, besides two thousand muskets.

We have now three hundred Indians on the ground, and two hundred more are expected to-morrow, they appear ashamed of themselves, and promise to whipe away the disgrace into which they have fallen by their late conduct. They may serve to intimidate, otherwise expect no essential service from this degenerate race—

Should your Excellency be in a situation to send reinforcements to the Upper Country, the whole of the force at present at Kingston might be directed to proceed hither—
One thousand additional regulars, are necessary a force of that description ought to be stationed at Pelham to act as exigencies might require—At present the whole of my force being necessary for the defence of the banks of the river no part can look for support.

If I can continue to maintain my position six weeks longer the campaign will have terminated in a manner little expected in the States. But I stand in want of more artillerymen, and a thousand regulars. I have thus given Your Excellency a hasty sketch of my situation—and this I can aver that no exertions shall be wanting to do justice to the important command with which I am entrusted Captain Fulton leaves this by the first safe conveyance.

I have the honour to be with the highest respect Your Excellency's Most obedient and Humble Servant Isaac Brock M. G.

It is said that Fort Niagara is to be evacuated—

His Excellency Lt Genl Sir George Prevost Bt &c &c

[C 677-p 64.]

GENERAL HULL TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Library of Congress

Montreal 8th Sept 1812

Sir

In my letter of the 15th of Augt addressed to Major General Brock, I observed, “that the flag of truce, under the directions of Cap: Brown proceeded contrary to the orders, and without the knowledge of Capn Cass, 141 who commanded the Troops, which attacked your picket guard, near the River Canard Bridge,”

As this is not only a subject of national honor, but of delicacy to the officers, who were concerned in the transaction, it is necessary that the whole case should be stated.

The object of the expedition under Col. Cass was to reconnoitre the country as far as the River Canard, and I had no expectation of his passing the River and making the attack.....

Cap: Brown was sent by my orders, under the sanction of a flag of truce.....As he proceeded down the River, he had an interview with Col. Cass, and the Coln informed him of his intention to pass the river and attack the picket guard, and desired Capt Brown not to proceed to Amherstburg until the event had taken place.....

Capt. Brown informed, it was his intention not to have proceeded in consequence of this information, until he knew there was no active hostility on our part.....Being however unacquainted with the shore of the Detroit River, he unexpectedly turned a point of land, which brought him with his flag of truce in full view of the Fort of Amherstburg—He then considered, situated as he unexpectedly was, that there would be more propriety in proceeding than in remaining in that situation; expecting that he should be able to return, before any active operations were commenced.....

I am very respectfully Your Excellency's most obt servt Wm Hull

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Sir George Prevost Commanding His Britannic Majesty's Forces, & & &c

[C 677-p 73.]

OBSERVATIONS BY TANPOINT1 POTHIER AT THE REQUEST OF HIS EXCELLENCY SIR GEORGE PREVOST &c &c &c ON THE CAPTURE AND STATE OF MICHILLIMACKINAC WHEN HE LEFT IT

1 Toussaint C. Pothier. “Messrs. Dickson, Pothier and Crawford behaved nobly at the capture of Mackinac.” Maj. Gen. Brock, July 29, 1812.

On the third July inst. I received at Fort S. Joseph from Montreal in the Capacity of Agent for the South West Fur Company appointed by Messrs McTavish Mc Gillivrays & Co & Forsyth Richardson & Co.

That Post was under the command of Cap Charles Roberts of the Royal 10th Veteran Battallion with a detachment Composed of three subaltern 142 officers and between forty and forty-five Non Commissioned officers and privates of said Battallion.

There were also arrived at that Post from the Wintering grounds several of the Traders Equiped by said Company among whom was Mr. Robert Dickson who brought in with him from the Mississippi a Band of Indians, Scioux, Puants and Falles Avoines, Composing a body of one hundred and thirty warriors, Commanded by the principle chiefs of their tribes, who accompanied Mr Dickson in consequence as I understand of an understanding between him and General Brock and with the view of supporting the British interest in that Country.

The number of Canadians at St. Joseph at this time were but few, the Traders having Chiefly left their men and returns at the Post of Michillimackinac

on the 9th of the same month on Express arrived from General Brock Announcing the declaration of war by the Americans against Great Britain, and on the 10th a requisition was made by Capt. Roberts, that all the Boats, Arms, and Ammunition in my possession should be immediately placed at his disposal, which was accordingly done.

The situation in which I was placed representing the Trade and Interest of the Company induced Captain Roberts to Confer with me upon public measures necessary to be taken in the event of a descent on the Island of Michillimackinac, at which time he made me acquainted with the weak state of his garrison as well as other means in his power which were of themselves very insufficient for the undertaking, having but forty Guns in the Indian Store, and no Gunpowder but what was required for the great guns of the Garrison and Ball Cartridges for his own men only, not a flint, in short the Garrison was difficient of every necessary for such an undertaking without the Assistance which fortunately happened to be within my power to afford him. With this Assistance he determined upon an attack on Michillimackinac as soon as he should receive instructions to that effect and preparative measures were adopted accordingly.

In consequence of this determination an Express was sent to Mr. Shaw and the other Agents of the North West Company at Fort William, Solliciting such assistance as might be within their power to Contribute, a vessel of theirs being at that time at St. Joseph was also put in requisition, and those Gentlemen with great alacrity came down with a strong party to Co-operate bringing to St. Maries several Carryage Guns and other Arms, and altho the distance between St. Joseph's and Fort William is about 500 Miles they arrived at Michillimackinac the ninth day from the date of the Express and found us in peaceable possession.1

1 An exceedingly prompt response to the request for assistance. The entire journey was made by canoe on Lakes Superior and Huron.

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Between the ninth and the fifteenth on which day the Express arrived authorizing the undertaking several bands of Indians came in among whom were the principle Outawas Chiefs. On the day of their arrival the Council Room was opened to them when the commanding officer acquainted them of the declaration of war and required of them that assistance which from their former professions he had every right to expect, they appeared very luke warm, and after a great deal of prevarication reluctantly agreed to join the expedition; the other Indians were very unanimous, particularly the Western Indians whose animated example had great influence upon the concurrence of the others. It may be proper to observe that Amable Chevalier1 a Courte Oreille or Outawas Chief who has resided at the Lake of the two Mountains for several years past, returned to the upper countries last fall, and this last spring on hearing the probability of a War came to St. Joseph's; and tendered his services to the commanding officer, this man's influence had been great among them heretofore, and although he used every exertion in his power on this occasion to interest them in the British cause, which he had heartily espoused, he never could bring himself to have confidence in their fidelity.

1 See appendix.

By this time most of the Indian traders arrived at St. Joseph's with a number of their men, so that we were now enabled to form a force of about 230 Canadians and 320 Indians exclusive of the garrison—With this force we left St Joseph on the 16th at Eleven o'clock, A. M. landed at Michilim'k at three o'clock the next morning, summoned the garrison to surrender at nine o'clock and marched in at Eleven.

Among the Indians that accompanied the expedition, were about thirty Outawas, Amable Chevalier having been despatched by the commanding officer to their village, in order to bring the others (between two and three hundred warriors in number) to form a junction at a given point in which we were disappointed; two days elapsed after the capitulation when we were informed that they were all encamped at a distance of fifteen miles from Michilim'k on this information a canoe was despatched from Michillim'k with Wampum and

Tobacco to tell them the news and to write them to come in and partake in concert with the other Indians of what was intended to be Destributed generally, and they accordingly came in alledging their delay arose from the badness of the weather. Soon after Amable Chevalier informed me privately their motives of delay was occasioned by indecision on their part while the conquest remained doubtfull and unknown to them and a predelection in favor of the Americans seemed to influence them.

They were in this state of indecision when advices of General Hull's landing 144 at Sandwich arrived, with a force which they considerably magnified and which tended greatly to damp the ardour of the other tribes, and the very men among them who Capt Roberts appointed to a village Guard, were those who held private Counsels, to which they invited the Sautteux for the purpose not only of abandoning the British cause, but eventually to avail themselves of the first good opportunity of cutting off the Fort. this being rejected by the others, they suddenly broke up their Camp and returned to their Villages to the exception of a few young and old men of little or no importance.

A few days previous to my coming away the principle chiefs of this Tribe returned to Michillimac. at that time there were about two hundred Warriors of other tribes preparing to go to Amherstburg to join the British, when at a special Council they declared their determination to remain neutral and reproached the commanding officer with having taken them too abruptly at St Joseph, that their Eyes were then shut but now open, and that without them he could never have got up there pointing to the Fort, and from the general conversation at that time gave to understand that the Future possession of the Fort depended upon them.

When I left Michilimk1 on the evening of the 25th July most of the Indian Traders and men were gone off to their Wintering Quarters, so that very soon after it would be left with no other protection but the Garrison, little or no Indian goods remained, not much provision, and a great Scarcity of Gun Powder. Another evil which prevails there, is the want of a

good Interpreter, an object of the greatest importance to His Majesty's interest in that Country

1 Michilimackinac—a grievously long word for a penman.

Montreal 8th September 1812 T. C. Pothier

[C 677-p 70.]

COLONEL PROCTOR TO MAJ. GEN. BROCK

(*War—1812*)

Detroit September 9th 1812

Dear Sir

I beg to acquaint you that on my arrival at the Foot of the Rapids, Accompanied by the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, I found that the Post of Sandusky had been evacuated by the enemy as well as the whole of the Territory of Michigan. The Garrison of Chicago has been taken, by the Indians, partly by stratagem, more than a Fortnight since, and I am sorry to say that the Garrison consisting of fifty men, and every other person 145 there, excepting an officer and his Lady who were wounded, and a Trader, Kenzie, (Kinzie) were killed,1 we had no knowledge of any attack having been intended by the Indians on Chicago, nor can they indeed be said to be within the influence of the superintendent. I have reason to believe that Fort Wayne has been invested by the back Indians, and if Colonel Eliot had not been totally unable from a Lumbago to ride so far I should have required him to proceed for that place to restrain the Indians, he has however taken measures that I hope will have the desired effect. On my return to Amherstburg I received Colonel Baynes's Letter from Green Bush (8th of August) and which had been forwarded from Fort Erie, having been directed to the care of General Hull. I shall send off the Queen Charlotte, with the Prisoners of war, and the Deserters from our service, under a proper

escort, I do not think it prudent whilst any of the Prisoners are here to weaken my Force. Besides it may be requisite to send a Force to save the Garrison of Fort Wayne. And the Militia have been reduced to three hundred. I need not mention that your Directions shall be strictly attended to, to the best of my Power and Judgment. I remain

1 See appendix. 19

Dear Sir with Respect faithfully and obediently Yours Henry Proctor Colonel Comg

Major General Brock &c &c &c

[77-pp 85]

FROM COLONEL PROCTOR—UNADDRESSED

(*War—1812*)

Detroit September 10th 1812

Dear Sir

I have just received Your Letter from Kingston of the 4th Inst: And shall act accordingly. Enclosed I send a return of the Ordnance and Ordnance stores sent in the Queen Charlotte, no shot were sent because as I understand there is already a quantity of each Calibre at Fort George. The remainder of the Prisoners of War, excepting some sick and wounded, were also sent on board the Charlotte with a Guard of two subaltern officers & forty men of the 41st Regiment, whom I Cannot afford to part with. I had ordered the Deserters on board, but have had the dissatisfaction to find that 146 they have not been sent. Annexed is also a list of provisions and Stores Captured on the 16th Ulto.— I assented to the absence of L. Col Nichol for a short time on the Urgency of his private affairs, and the probability of the Armistice Continuing. Major Givens has been of great assistance to me in his department. I regret his going but I could not detain him longer

than there was a probability of my returning soon to Fort George. As you directed a Sergeant of the 41st Regt (Leonard Smith) has been appointed to act as Dy Barrack Master at this place. I shall be much gratified if it should be Confirmed. I found on my arrival here that the Boats, and the Engagies of the South West Company had been detained and employed in the service. They have been under the direction of Lieut Bender 41st Regt and have been of the greatest use. They have been provisioned, and I suppose are entitled to pay as Militia. I am sending off a detachment of 41st Regt and Militia with three Pounder to Aid the Indians against Fort Wayne. It shall be Conducted with every Prudence and Expedition. The Detroit will sail in a few days for Fort Erie. Judge Campbell1 goes in her. I have required one hundred more of the Militia, making four hundred besides the thirty mounted who are to keep up the Communication with the Moravian town. One hundred and fifty of the Mackina Indians are arrived, they met the Express sixty miles on this side of Mackina. They are just in time for Fort Wayne. The Hunter shall sail without delay I remain

1 William Campbell, a justice of the superior court of Upper Canada; director of the “Loyal and Patriotic Society.”

faithfully Yours Signed Henry Proctor Colonel Commanding

[C 677- p. 88.]

FROM MAJOR GENERAL DE ROTTENBURG

Camp Blairfindy Sept 10th 1812

Sir

General Hull will be forwarded according to directions as soon as he arrives

I have the honor to be &c &c Francis de Rottenburg M Genl

The Indians have this moment arrived His Excellency the Comd of the Forces

[C 677-p 77.]

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MAJ. GEN. BROCK TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Fort George September 18th 1812

Sir

I have been honored with Your Excellency's dispatch dated the 7th Instant I have implicitly followed Your Excellency's instructions, and abstained under great temptation and provocation, from every act of hostility. The information received from a deserter, and which I had the honor to detail in my last, is far from correct, and where credit is to be given, the facts apply solely to the regular force—The Militia being selected from the most violent democrats, are generally inclined to invade this Province—Provisions are in tolerable plenty—the only complaint arises from a want of vegetables. It is currently reported that the enemy's force is to be encreased to seven thousand and that on their arrival an attack is immediately to be made—I am convinced the militia would not keep together in their present situation without such a prospect nor do I think the attempt can be long deferred—Sickness prevails in some degree along the line, but principally at Black Rock.

The Flank Companies of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment have joined me—A Serjeant and twenty five rank and file of the Veterans arrived at the same time, whom I propose sending to Michilimackinac.

The enclosed letters from Colonel Proctor will inform Your Excellency of a force having been detached under Captain Muir for the reduction of West1 Wayne—I gave orders previous to my leaving Amherstburg for it, which must have induced Colonel Proctor to proceed upon receiving intelligence of the recommencement of hostilities without waiting for further directions—I regret exceedingly that this service should have been undertaken contrary to your Excellency's wishes or intentions, but I beg leave to assure your Excellency that the principal object in sending a British force to Fort Wayne is with the hope of preserving the lives of the garrison—By the last accounts the place was invested by a numerous body of Indians with very little prospect of being relieved. The prisoners of War, who know perfectly the situation of the garrison, rejoiced at the measure, and give us full credit for our intentions.

1 Fort Wayne.

The Indians were likewise looking to us for assistance. They heard of the Armistice with every mark of jealousy, and had we refused joining them in the expedition it is impossible to calculate the consequences—I have already been asked to pledge my word that England would enter into no negociation 148 in which their interests were not consulted, and could they be brought to imagine that we should desert them the consequences must be fatal.

I have perused with every possible attention your Excellency's instruction “that whenever I was informed that the enemy have made an attempt to penetrate into the Lower Province I am to concentrate all my disposal force, and immediately make such a divertion as shall indicate a disposition to operate upon his lines of communication” my force is so scattered, and so immediately required for the defence of the different posts at which it is stationed, that I am at a loss to know in what manner I possibly can act so as to produce the effect expected.

I shall be obliged to Your Excellency to direct five thousand pounds to be transmitted to the Receiver General for the civil expenditure of this Province. Army Bills I make no doubt will answer every purpose.

This dispatch is entrusted to Lt. Colonel Nicholls, quarter Master General of this militia, whom I take the liberty to introduce to your Excellency as perfectly qualified from his local knowledge, and late return, to afford every information of the State of affairs in the Western district. He is instructed to make extensive purchases of necessaries for the use of the Militia, and I have to entreat Your Excellency to indulge him with the means of a speedy conveyance back to this place

I have the honour to be With the highest respect Your Excellency's faithful and obedt Servant Isaac Brock M. Genl.

His Excellency L. Genl. Sir George Prevost Bt. &c &c &c

[C 677-p 90.]

MAJOR MUIR TO COLONEL PROCTOR

(*War—1812*)

Old Delaware Town 12 miles above Fort Defiance on the Miami River 40 miles from Fort Wayne 26th September 1812

Sir

In consequence of unavoidable delays, we only arrived here last night when nine or ten Indians advanced for the first time about five or six miles ahead of the troops under my command: about sunsit they fell in with an advanced party of the enemi consisting of an officer and four men, whom 149 they took prisoners and were informed by them that an army of five thousand men was about four miles in their rear, and that another army of

three thousand men, was on its march down the Glaze river and that they were to join the former army at Fort Defiance. Having received this information, I despatched a messenger to Colonel Elliott who was at that time lying opposite to Fort Defiance, with the main body of the Indians, whose number, at present, is about six hundred. Colonel Elliott on receiving this information got the Indians on their march and arrived here about mid-day, since which time we have had parties out in every direction, who have brought in various reports, but none appeared to be satisfactory until a Huron chief called Split log1 came in. He said that he had been round the whole of the American camp, which lies at the distance of about eight miles from us, and that they are about two thousand five hundred strong.

1 See appendix.

We have our guns and everything ready for action, but in this country where from the lowness of the water we have been three days bringing our guns eight miles, should we be obliged to retreat which from the great superiority of the enemy's force we have every reason to expect we shall, it will be the next thing to an impossibility for us to succeed in bringing off our cannon, and should we be obliged to leave them, we must endeavor to make them unserviceable for the time. Two hundred more Indians are expected to-morrow, and should they arrive in time it is proposed to attack the enemy on his march.

In consequence of a great number of our cattle having got away from the men who had charge of them, we have now no more than two days provisions, altho we have all been on short allowance for these four days past. Captain Elliott is gone back to the Rapids to endeavor to procure some more cattle and flour (which we are equally in want of from the impossibility of bringing it by water, and the great scarcity of pack horses and saddles). Excuse the liberty I take in observing that I conceive no time should be lost in making every precaution for the defence of Detroit and Amherstburg, as I have no doubt of this large force being intended for one or both these places—You may expect every

information from me of anything that may occur, and you may rely upon being acquainted with the result of this business as soon as it is decided.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedt and very humble servt (Signed) A. C. Muir Major Commg. & Capt. 41 Regt.

Colonel Proctor &c &c &c Detroit

150

27th Sept 9 o'clock A. M. One hundred and forty nine Indians have just joined us.

[C 677-p 97.]

MAJOR GENERAL BROCK TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

York Upper Canada September 28th 1812

Sir

I have been honored with your Excellency's dispatch dated the 14th instant—I shall suspend under the latitude left by your Excellency to my discretion, the evacuation of Fort Detroit, such a measure would most probably be followed by the total extinction of the population on that side of the River, or the Indians, aware of our weakness and inability to carry on active warfare would only think of entering into terms with the Enemy1 .

1 The inference is that Brock had been advised to withdraw his troops from Detroit to reinforce those on the Niagara frontier.

I have the honor &c Isaac Brock M. G.

His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bt &c &c

[C 677-p 94.]

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM COLONEL PROCTOR TO MAJOR GENERAL BROCK, DATED DETROIT SEPTEMBER 30 th 1812

The Indians will certainly not desert us now, but a respectable force is requisite to give them confidence, and render them effective. The Indians hesitated some time whether they should again confide in us. They have their fears that this Territory may be again ceded to the Americans, and in the event of which, they will I am Confident, look upon us as their betrayers, and worst enemies. Our retention of this Territory, is I believe, as much as they would require. I shall however better inform myself on that subject.

I have just received the enclosed letter from Captain Muir. Whatever may be the result of the expedition, there cannot be a doubt of the propriety of it. If a retreat should be requisite, it must be on this side of the streight that every stand must be made. The enemy must pay dearly for 151 every inch of tenable ground we may be obliged to yield to them. The Indians were in high spirits. Flour and Cattle were on the way and not more than two days from them. I hope that you have received a reinforcement, that will leave you at liberty to send some of the 41st Regiment to our assistance, I hope we shall do our duty. The Detroit sails without delay—she has the ordnance and small Arms on Board. The Queen Charlotte I have detained until I hear further from Captain Muir, in the meantime she will show herself on the American Coast between Cleveland and St Dusky (Sandusky) to cause an alarm there

[C 677-p 100]

MAJOR MUIR TO COLONEL PROCTOR

(*War—1812*)

Miami River 2 miles above Fort Miami Septr 30th 1812

Sir ,

I beg leave to acquaint you that on the morning of the 27th instant as I mentioned to you in my former letter of the 27th it was intended to have attacked the Enemy on his march, and every thing was ready for that purpose, however in the morning it was thought necessary to send out a reconnoitring party to see if he was likely to move, and Captain Caldwell and Lieut. Askin of the Militia and a party of sixty Indians were sent out for that purpose. In the course of an hour, some shots were fired and our parties returned leaving one Indian whom they reported to be killed, and said that the enemy was on his march towards us—Still no further steps were taken by the Indians to prevent his progress, soon after another Indian came in and reported that the Enemy was within less than two miles of us, and that another Indian had been killed by them. I then requested Colonel Elliott to inform me, what the Indians intended to do; he went to Round-Head1 (the principal chief) and returned immediately saying “I might chuse any place in the plain which I thought best adapted to the use of the guns, and that the Indians would flank them.” I told him I should occupy the road skirting the wood; where they would be ready to act in any situation as soon as this arrangement took place, and the Troops were at their stations as a guard to the guns—Colonel Elliott rode up to me, and said the Indians would not come that way, and requested I would retire through the woods, and stop at the first place where I could take up a good position, and that they would flank us as they said before. We then commenced our retreat and at the distance of about four miles in our rear, there was a small opening in the wood, where they supposed the guns might be disposed of to advantage,

1 See appendix.

152 but I soon convinced them to the contrary, by showing them that the guns could not possibly throw a shot more than one hundred yards in any direction, and I told them the Guns were brought for the purpose of battering Fort Wayne, but would not answer to fight in the woods, and that as soon as we arrived at Fort Defiance I would endeavor to send them off and should then be at liberty to act according to circumstances. I then made every arrangement and had the artillery and stores embarked in boats under the direction of Lieut Thought on,1 with orders to proceed to Amherstburg with as much expedition as

possible. This Service being arranged and sent off, I went to the Indian Camp where the Indians were at Council, and was soon given to understand that they were determined to meet the Enemy at an advantageous spot in the morning—The next morning (the 28th) about an hour before day light I received a message from Colonel Elliott, saying that the Indians had been conjuring all right, and that the Mackinac and Sagina Indians were going to leave the Camp. This being the case I made no doubt but a retreat had been agreed upon, and intended by the whole, and gave directions for the Cattle and Baggage to proceed. In less than half an hour afterwards I received another message from Colonel Elliott saying that the Indians were determined to fight, and requested I would move on the Troops—I immediately ordered them to march, and was at their camp in a few minutes. Colonel Elliott then came up to me, and begged I would halt the men for a few minutes as the Indians were not yet ready—I then observed them moving off bag and baggage in bands of six and seven at a time, in every direction. I mentioned what I had seen to Colonel Elliott, who told me they were going to hide their things, and would return immediately—The Chief of the Mackina Indians then came up and took his leave, saying that the Indians were divided amongst themselves, and that he would take home his young men, adding that those who had horses might remain, as they could easily run away in case of defeat—He then marched of with the principal part of his Band, which consisted of 200 young men—I then observed to three or four of the Interpreters that were standing by me, “I thought the camp began to be very thin.”—At that instant a young Huron said that by the time we got to the fighting ground we should not have half the number that were then present—This gave me a pretty clear idea of what I might expect—I was however determined to see, and we all marched off for the ground that it was intended we should fight on, which was the East bank of the North or little Miami River, branching off from the other about three miles above Fort Defiance—Soon after our arrival at the place, Colonel Elliott and I went to look at the ground and on our return a Prisoner was

1 Lieut. Felix Troughton of the Royal Artillery. He was awarded a medal for services at the capture of Detroit.

153 brought in by one of the Indians, who said, that he had strayed from the Army about four days before, and that he had not eat anything during that time—We then examined him respecting the Army and he informed us that it was commanded by General Harrison as far as Forty Wayne when he was obliged to return to the Wabash in consequence of some of their Towns having been burnt by the Indians, and that as soon as he had quieted them, he was to return to the command of the Army, and bring with him the force he took at the Wabash. That during his absence the army was commanded by General Winchester,1 he further said that he army was three thousand strong,, consisting of the following Regiments Viz—Wells' Regulars, Lewis', Allens' and Scott's Volunteers from Kentucky Simmerole's Cavalry 250 strong, and 150 mounted Riflemen, with one six pounder and 70 waggons—that they were short of provisions, but that they expected another army of the same strength to meet them at Fort Defiance which was to bring provisions for both armies, and four pieces of cannon, and that both Armies were to have met at Fort Defiance on the 26th inst: and that it was generally thought it was intended on their meeting, they should proceed to Detroit—During this conversation I recollected what I had been told respecting the number of Indians I should have, and as nearly as I could judge there were not more than 320 to 330 present—I mentioned this to Colonel Elliott and told him I considered it would be madness with such a handful of men to think of opposing an army of such a force; besides it was running the risk of being completely locked in, without the smallest chance of success, or even escaping—He then told me that two of the Indian Conjurors had dreamt that they should be successful that day, and that they were determined to fight—I then told him to acquaint the Indians, that I could not see the smallest prospect of success, but on the contrary, should I engage, the whole of the Troops under my Command must inevitably fall. I was determined not to throw away the lives of so many men, and for no purpose. He then went to Round Head and informed him of my determination—Round Head then came to me with an Interpreter and urged the necessity of trying their success in compliance with the dream of the conjurors, and that at all events we might drive back their advanced guard—I agreed that that might be done but what would be the advantage, when while we were engaged with these few men,

we run the risk of being cut off from our baggage and provisions, and at the same time allowed the Enemy to get so near that to retreat with my Troops would have been morally impossible—He repeated that as to being surrounded and cut off we could easily prevent that by retreating through the woods, I told him, that might answer for

1 See appendix. 20

154 his people very well, but would not for mine, and that if he would collect the Warriors and young men of his Nation, I would wait for them at the Camp we left in the morning, and we might then retreat in a body. To this he agreed, and we commenced our Retreat accordingly. Lieutenant Troughton who will deliver this Letter, will give you every information respecting our Retreat to this place, as we overtook him the first day, and he has been with us ever since—He will also account to you for some Stores which he was obliged to destroy in order to get down our guns—Some Indians who had been sent up the Glaize1 river on the 27th to examine into the truth of the report the Prisoner we took made respecting an army being on its way down by that river returned without having seen anything of the army, but they discovered fresh footsteps and heard bugles sounding very distinctly, and from that they imagined the Enemy were encamped not more than two miles from the Fort—Previous to this they had heard two cannon shots in the same direction but at some distance further off-Colonel Elliott this day assured me that he would send out parties with white men to reconnoitre, and watch the movements of the army from whom we should receive information according as anything material should occur—Before I conclude, permit me to assure you that every praise is due to the officers of my little army for their exertions in endeavoring to forward the expedition and for their Zeal and cheerful compliance with all orders on every occasion.

1 Au Glaize. See appendix.

The men also behaved remarkably well, and I have no doubt that could they have been brought into action with any hopes of success, their conduct would have been equally good.

(Signed) A. C. Muir Major and Captain 41st Regt. Commanding

Colonel Proctor &c &c &c Commanding Detroit.

[C 677-p 102]

COLONEL PROCTOR TO MAJ. GEN. BROCK

(*Command Money*)

Detroit October 1st 1812

Sir

It being agreeable to a Regulation of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and there being also a Precedent for it, in this country, I request 155 you will have the goodness to recommend me for the increase of pay as Colonel Commanding a District and from whatever Period, It may appear to you that I have Pretentions to the same

I have the honor to be Sir With Respect, Your faithful and obedient servant Henry Procter Colonel Comg

Major General Brock Commdg in Upper Canada Fort George

[C 677-p 122]

COLONEL PROCTOR TO MAJ. GEN. BROCK

(*War—1812*)

Detroit October 3d 1812

Sir

I have the honor to send you herewith a Copy of a letter which I received last evening from Captain Muir, who I find has arrived at Amherstburg with his detachment. Fort Wayne had been relieved about ten days previous to the detachments arrival at Fort Defiance. The delay occasioned by the Armistice prevented the attainment of our object of the expedition, which was the destruction of Fort Wayne, the other was effected by the enemy. I do not think we shall have any credit for our good intentions however. Some delays which occurred on the Expedition proved fortunate, as they could, it now appears, scarcely have returned before a very considerable body of the enemy would have intercepted them. If I had not been already perfectly convinced of the necessity of an independent regular force to insure the effectual assistance of the Indians, the history of this expedition would have confirmed me in that opinion. I fully expect that the enemy will advance as soon as they can bring Provisions &c to Fort Defiance, which they probably will move from in force. The Ohio state abounds in cattle &c. From the people that have left this place of late, whom it is an object to be rid of, the enemy knew perfectly well our state, our force &c. which they no doubt are led to believe not equal even to what it is. Their Militia cannot refuse to march into this Territory. I have been getting the Cattle as much as possible from the lower part of this Territory.1 I shall

1 The Raisin and Maumee river districts:

156 not now stand on much ceremony. I shall leave no provisions for the Enemy, and shall make every obstacle to his advance. It is with much reluctance I leave myself without a vessel of force, but the season is so advanced that I am averse to any portion of it being lost. If the Lady Prevost can be spared even until the Charlotte return, she may prove very useful.

I am Sir With respect, Your faithful & obedient servant (signed Henry Procter Colonel Commg

Major General Brock &c &c &c Fort George

Library of Congress

[C 677-p 111.]

MAJOR HEATHCOTE TO COLONEL VINCENT

(*War—1812*)

Point Frederick 3d Oct. 1812

Sir

I have the honor to report, for the information of Major General Brock that at ½ past seven oclock on the morning of the 16th ulto: as the Brigade of Boats under my command entered the narrow passage between Presquille, and an Island known by the name of Toussaint, they enemy who were concealed in the wood, in number we supposed between three and four hundred open'd a brisk fire of musketry from one extremety of the Island to the other on the Batteaux, the Detachment was immediately landed, and formed in the best manner to protect the stores and repel the attack of the enemy, by returning a well directed and spirited fire, at this moment a schooner carrying a six Pounder came round the lower point of the Island and commenced firing upon us with round shot which was continued about an hour, at the same time a large Durham boat filled with men came round the Upper Point of the Island apparently with the intention of landing at Presquille, in consequence of which I ordered a party consisting of about thirty of the Detachment and a number of the Militia to proceed to the Point opposite the Durham boat, and I have the satisfaction to state that their fire was so well directed that they enemy were driven from the Point and the boat taken possession of. The schooner shortly after this hauled round to the back of the Island, and with the assistance of several boats 157 convey'd the men from the Island to the main shore, I then proceeded with the Batteaux and passed the narrows and rapids the enemy continuing to fire from their own shore but at too great a distance to do execution. The Gun Boat which Col Lethbridge had ordered from Prescott having arrived the American schooner got under weigh and from the superiority of sailing

escaped down the River. I have every reason to be perfectly satisfied with the conduct of the officers and men of the Detachment under my command, I have also to acknowledge the assistance I received from the Militia who readily came forward to render every service of their power—I have to report that one private of the 49th Regt was killed by a cannon shot, and one private of the Rl Newfoundland Regt, and one or two of the Militia slightly wounded, from the information I received the enemy must have suffered considerably on the occasion.

I have the honor to be Sir Your obedt Hbl Servant R. Heathcote Major Rl Newfoundland Regt

Col. Vincent & & &

[C 677-p 147.]

THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF1 TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

1 See appendix.

(*War—1812*)

Horse Guards 3d October 1812

Sir ,

I am to acknowledge the receipt of your Dispatches of the 4th and 17th of August last, with their respective Enclosures, detailing the measures which you had thought it prudent to adopt, under the circumstances of war having been declared and commenced by the Government of the United States against Great Britain; and to express my approbation of the Resolution which you had in consequence taken, to retain in the Canadas, those Troops, that under other circumstances, were destined for a different Service.

I have learnt with much satisfaction, that, the judicious overture, which in consequence of Mr. Foster's communicating to you, you determined to propose to General Dearborn, The Commander in Chief of the American Forces, had been so ably executed by Colonel Baynes, Adjutant General to 158 the Forces under your Command, and I have read with much interest that Officers very clear and important report on the occasion.

Your very favorable special Report upon the Talents and Conduct of Major General Brock, could not fail of being highly gratifying to me.

I am, Sir, Your's Frederick Commander in Chief

Lieutenant General Sir George Prevost Bt &c &c &c

[C 677-p 113.]

THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Horse Guards 7th Oct 1812

Sir

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your Dispatch of the 26th August with its enclosed Report from Major General Brock, announcing the surrender of Fort Detroit by Brigadier General Hull with the Army under his Command; and also reporting the arrangements & operations connected with this event.

An occurrence which so gloriously terminates a Campaign, commenced under the declared confidence of success on the part of an arrogant Enemy, cannot fail of being most acceptable to the Prince Regent1 and gratifying to the Country in general, and in communicating upon the subject with His Royal Highness, I have his commands to

assure you that he highly approves the judicious and prompt arrangements which you adopted throughout the Province Generally for repelling the progress of invasion; and Major General Brock's exertions in the country which was the more immediate object of the Enemy's attack, as well as the skill and promptitude with which that officer availed himself of the Embarrassments in which the invader found himself unexpectedly involved, are highly appreciated & acknowledged by His Royal Highness.

1 See Appendix.

I have the Prince Regents commands therefore, to desire that you will be pleased to convey to Major General Brock and the officers and troops employed under His command, in the operations against Brigadier General Hull, the full thanks of His Royal Highness for the Important services He, and they have performed upon this occasion.

I have the pleasure to acquaint you that the Prince Regent has been 159 graciously pleased to approve of the bearer of your Dispatches, Captain Coon of the 3rd West India Regiment, being promoted to the Rank of Major in the army, and his Royal Highness has further been pleased to approve of Major General Brock's Aid-de-Camp, Captain Glegg of the 49th Regiment, being promoted to the same Rank.

I am Sir Yours Frederick Commander in Chief

Lt General Sir George Prevost Bt & & &

[C 677-p 116.]

CHIEF JUSTICE WOODWARD1 TO COLONEL PROCTER

1 See appendix.

(*War—1812. Massacre at Fort Dearborn*)

Territory of Michigan October 8th 1812

Sir

It is already known to you that on Saturday the 15th day of August last, an order having been given to evacuate Fort Dearborn, an attack was made by the savages of the vicinity, on the troops and persons appertaining to that garrison on their march, at the distance of about three miles from the River Chicago, and the greater part of the number barbarously and inhumanly massacred.

Three of the survivors of that unhappy and terrible disaster, having since reached this country, I have employed some pains to collect the number and names of those who were not immediately slain, and to ascertain whether any hopes might yet be entertained of saving the remainder.

It is on this subject that I wish to interest your feelings, and to solicit the benefit of your interposition; convinced that you estimate humanity among the brightest virtues of the soldier.

I find, sir, that the party consisted of ninety-three persons—of these the Military, including officers, non-commissioned officers and privates, amounted to fifty-four—the Citizens, not acting in a Military Capacity, consisted of Twelve—the number of women was nine, and that of the children eighteen. 160 The whole of the citizens were slaughtered, two women and twelve children.

Of the Military twenty-six were killed at the time of the attack, and accounts have arrived of at least five of the surviving prisoners having been put to death in the course of the same night.

There will remain then twenty three of the Military, five women, and six children, whose fate, with the exception of the three who have come in, and of two others who are known to be in safety at St Joseph's remains to be yet ascertained.

Of these, amounting in all to thirty four persons, I will furnish you with the names of all that I have been able to identify.

First, there is one officer, a Lieutenant, of the name of Linch (Linai,) T. Helm,1

1 See appendix.

with whom I have had the honor of a personal acquaintance—He is an officer of great merit, and of the most unblemished character. His father is a Gentleman originally of Virginia, and of the first respectability, who has since settled in the state of New York.—The lady of this Gentleman, Young and amiable victim of misfortune, was separated from her husband—She is understood to be now at St Joseph's—Mr Helm was conveyed a hundred miles into the Indian Country, and no accounts of his fate have yet reached this quarter.

Second, Of the six non commissioned officers, four survived the action; John Brozier, a Sergeant; Daniel Dougherty, a Corporal, one other Corporal by the name of Bowen, and William Griffin,1 Sergeant now here.

Third, Of the privates it is said that five, and it is not known how many more, were put to death in the night after the action. Of those who are said to have thus suffered, I have been able to collect only the names of two, Richard Garner, and James Latta—Mr. Burns of Citizen, severely wounded, was killed by an Indian woman, in the day time, about an hour after the action.—Micajah Dennison and John Fury were so badly wounded in the action that little hope was indulged of their recovery.—

There will thus remain twenty to be accounted for, of whom I can only give the following names, Dyson Dyer, William Nelson Hunt, Duncan McCarty, Augustus Motte, John Smith, John Smith, his son a fifer, James Van Horn.

Fourth, Of the five women, whose fate remains to be ascertained, I am enabled to give the names of all—They were Mrs. Burns,1 wife to the citizen before mentioned as killed after the attack,—Mrs. Hold Mrs Lee,1 Mrs. Needs and Mrs. Simmons,—among these women were six children saved out of the whole number, which was eighteen; part of them belonging to the surviving mothers, and part of those who were slain.

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As to the means of preserving these unhappy survivors from the distressing calamaties which environ them, if they have preserved their lives, and which the rigours of the approaching season cannot fail to heighten, I would beg leave to suggest the following.

First to send a special messenger to that quarter, overland, and with such safe guard of Indians or others, as can be procured, charged with collecting the prisoners who may yet survive, and accounts of those who may have ultimately suffered; and supplied with the means of conveying them either to Detroit, or Michigan, to Michillimackinac.1

1 Cf. Letter of R. Dickson, p. 259, and R. Bullock, p. 392, for reports of some of these prisoners rescued from Indians.

Second, to communicate to Captain Roberts, who now commands at Michillimackinac, the circumstances of the case in full, and to request his cooperation in effecting the humane object of their ultimate preservation.

I am not authorised by my Government to make the Assurance, but I shall not doubt their cheerfully defraying such expenses of ransom, or conveyance, as circumstances will

justify; and private funds are also ready to be applied to the same purpose.—I do not less doubt your willing and zealous assistance and with a confident hope of it, permit me,

Sir to assure you of the high respect with which I have the honor to be your obedient servant (Signed) A. B. Woodward

Col: Henry Proctor

[C 677-150.]

MAJ GEN. DEARBORN TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

Head Quarters Greenbush October 8th 1812

His Excellency Sir George Prevost

Sir

The Bearer, Capt. Baker who is on parole, has been requested by me, from consideration of his personal knowledge of the officers & men captured at Detroit, & of their situation for the purpose of procuring clothing & other necessary articles for them & of advancing to them their arrearages of pay.—

His employment on this service has not been considered by me incompatible with the length of his parole, or with the usage of war.—

This measure has been directed by the President of the United States, 21 162 from motives humanity & I must presume that your Excellency will have no objection to Capt. Baker proceeding to Quebec for the above purposes, & when he shall have completed the object of his mission, that your Excellency will have no objection to his returning.—

With Sentiments of high consideration & respect I have the honor to be Your Excellency Obedt. and humble Servant H. Dearborn Major. Genl. &c

[C 690-p 23.]

MAJ. GEN. BROCK TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Fort George October 9th 1812

Sir

I have been honored with Your Excellency's dispatch dated the 25th Ulto: and have to thank Your Excellency for ordering a Company of the Glengary Regiment to strengthen Colonel Lethbridge at Prescott. Whole force your Excellency has been led to believe had been weakened in consequence of my interference, but which I beg leave to state was done without my knowledge, and contrary to my intention—

The enclosed Copies of letters will inform your Excellency of the state of affairs to the westward—It appears evident the Enemy meditates a second attempt on Amherstburg —The greater part of the troops which are advancing marched from Kentucky with an intention of joining General Hull. How they are to subsist, even for a short period in that already exhausted contrary, is no easy matter to conceive. This difficulty will probably decide them on some bold measure in the hope of shortening the Campaign—If successfully resisted their fate is unavoidable.

The Indians, it appears by the accompanying documents, were adverse to retreating without first making trial of their strength: Taking however every circumstances into consideration I incline to think Captain Muir acted judiciously—should the Indians Continue to afford a willing Cooperation I entertain not the smallest doubt of the event that awaits

this second attempt to turn my right, But your Excellency will easily perceive that doubts and jealousies have already seized their minds. The officers of the Indian department will, I trust be able to remove all such impression—

Altho' from the daily privations of what is passing on the opposite shore a single man can ill be spread from this line, I have, notwithstanding determined 163 to send the two flank companies of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment to Amherstburg—Fresh troops are daily arriving supposed to belong to the Pennsylvanian Quota of two thousand known to be intended for his frontier—after the whole arrive an attack I imagine, cannot be long delayed. The wretched state of their quarters, and the raggedness of the troops will not allow them to have the rain and cold which during the past week have been so severely felt—Between two and three hundred Indians have joined and augmented the force on the other side,—their brethren here, feel certain they will not act with any spirit against us, so I imagine, if we continue to show a bold front—but in the event of a disaster, the love of plunder will prevail, and they will then Act in a manner the most to be dreaded by the inhabitants of this Country.

I beg leave to recommended to Your Excellency's indulgent consideration Colonel Proctor's application for the increase of pay as commanding a District which I request may commence from the 15 of August last,—With the greatest respect

I have the honour to be Your Excellency's most faithfully humble servant Isaac Brock M. Gl

His Excellency Lt Genl Sir George Prevost Bt &c &c &c

[C 677-p 123.]

COLONEL PROCTOR TO CHIEF JUSTICE WOODWARD

(*War—1812*)

Detroit , 10th October 1812

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Letter of the 8th instant relative to the distressing event which occurred on the 15th of last August, near the River Chicago, and requesting that the unhappy survivors of that disastrous affair, might receive the benefit of my interposition.—I beg to assure you that with pleasure, the most effectual means in my power shall be employed for the speedy release from Slavery, of the unfortunate individuals, and for their restoration to their friends— A measure, I have the satisfaction of knowing, to be perfectly consistent with the principal in 164 which the service of my sovereign is conducted, and I might say, particularly in the present contest.

I have the honor to be Sir With much esteem Your humble servant Henry Proctor

Chief Justice Woodward

[C 677-p 156.]

MAJ. GEN. BROCK TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Fort George October 11th 1812

Sir ,

I had scarcely closed my dispatch to Your Excellency of the 9th when I was suddenly called away to Fort Erie in consequence of a bold, and I regret to say, successful attack by the Enemy on His Majesty's Brig Detroit,1 and the Private Brig Caledonia,1 which had both arrived the preceding day from Amherstburg—It appears, by every account I have been able to collect, that a little before day a number of boats full of men dropped down the

current unobserved, boarded both vessels at the same moment, and cutting their cables were proceeding with them to the American shore, when Major Armstrong who witnessed the transaction, directed the Batteries to open on them and soon compelled the enemy to abandon the Detroit, which grounded about the centre of Squaw Island a little more than a mile below Black Rock. She was then boarded by a party of the 49th Regiment, but as no anchor remained, and being otherwise unprovided with every means by which she could be hauled off, the officer, after throwing the guns over board, and sustaining a smart fire of musketry, decided to quit her—A private, who is accused of getting drunk, and a prisoner of war, who was unable from his wounds to escape with about twenty brought by the Detroit from Amherstburg, remained however behind—whom it was necessary to remove before the vessel could be destroyed, and Cornet Pell Major,1 of the Provincial cavalry offered his services. Being unfortunately wounded as he was getting on board and falling back in the boat, a confusion arose, during which the boats drifted from the vessel, leaving two of the 41st who had previously ascended, on board—In the meantime the Caledonia was secured by the enemy, and a cargo of furs belonging to the South West Company landed.

1 See appendix.

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The Batteries on both sides were warmly engaged the whole of the day but I am happy to say no mischief was sustained by the enemy's fire.

I reached the spot soon after sunset and intended to have renewed the attempt to recover the Detroit, which, assisted by the crew of the Lady Prevost which had anchored a short time before, I had every prospect of accomplishing, but before the necessary arrangements could be made, the enemy boarded her, and in a few minutes she was seen in flames.

This event is particularly unfortunate, and may reduce us to incalculable distress. The enemy is making every exertion to gain a Naval superiority on both Lakes which if they accomplish I do not see how we can retain the country. Three vessels are fitting out for war on the other side of Squaw Island which I would have attempted to destroy but for your Excellency's repeated instructions to forebear—Now such a force is collected for their protection as will render any operation against them very hazardous.

The manner our guns were served yesterday point out the necessity of an encrease, if possible, of artillery men to our present small number of regulars—The Militia evinced a good spirit, but fired without much effect—The enemy, however, must have lost some men, and it is only wonderful that in a contest of a whole day no life was lost on our side. The fire of the enemy was incessant but badly directed till the close of the day, when it began to improve—Lieut Rolett1 who commanded the Detroit had, and I believe deservedly, the character of a brave, attentive officer—His vessel must however have been surprized, an easy operation where she lay at anchor, and I have reason to suspect that this consideration was not sufficiently attended to by the officers commanding on board and on shore.

1 See appendix.

We have not only sustained a heavy loss in the vessel, but likewise in the cargo, which consisted of four twelves, a large quantity of shot, and about two hundred muskets, all of which were intended for Kingston and Prescott—The only consolation remaining is that she escaped the enemy, whose conduct after his first assay did not entitle him to so rich a prize.

The enemy has brought some boats overland from Slusher to the Niagara River, and made an attempt last night to carry off the guard over the store at Queenston, I shall refrain as long as possible, under Your Excellency's positive injunctions from every hostile act, although sensible that each days delay gives him an advantage—

I have the honor to be, with every respect Your Excellency's Faithful and Obedient Servant Isaac Brock M G

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12th October 1912

The vast number of troops which have been added this day to the strong force previously collected on the opposite side convinces me, with other indications, that an attack is not far distant—I have in consequence directed every exertion to be made to complete the Militia to two thousand men, but fear I shall not be able to effect my object with willing well disposed characters—Were it not for the number of Americans in our ranks we might defy all their efforts against this part of the Province—

I. B.

His Excellency Sir George Prevost &c &c &c

[C 677-p 127.]

CAPTAIN ROBERTS TO MAJ. GEN. SHEAFFE

(*War—1812*)

Fort Michilimackinac 12th Octr 1812

Sir

By the Hunter that arrived here on the 10th inst: I had the honor to receive your letter of the first September nothing of importance has occurred here since my last communications to Captain Glegg—The Outawas of the Le Arbre Crouche village have repented of their errors and have in the most humble implored forgiveness I enclose a copy of the minutes of the Council held on the occasion.

The Deserter Kelly is sent down on board of the Hunter it is somewhat in his favour that he gave himself up to me here for I find there was no one that could have identified him and had he been so inclined he might have got off unobserved his general conduct here has been regular and orderly.

Parks and May both are veterans unfit for active service As a Drum and Fife they are of the first necessity in case of alarm and indispensible duties, it is out of their power to desert from hence were they ever so much inclined for these reasons which will I hope be thought satisfactory I have taken upon myself the heavy responsibility of detaining them contrary to your desires.

I am sorry to inform you that a report prevails here that the Boat I sent to receive the flour at Mashadash has been lost and all the crew perished the 167 length of time they have been gone increases the probability that some accident has happened to them. I have the honor to be Sir

Your most obedient & humble servt Charles Roberts Captain 10 V B

Major General Sheaffe & &c

[C 677-p 158.]

CAPTAIN ROBERTS TO COLONEL PROCTOR

(*War 1812. Commissariat*)

Fort Michilimackinac 18th October 1812

Sir

By the Hunter that arrived here late last night I had the honor to receive your several communications—It is much to be regretted that an idea should have prevailed that there

was an ample stock of Provisions at this Post.—Twenty Barrels of Pork which had been culled for the Indians and of the worst quality, and Sixty Barrels of Flour are all that remain. —The demands for the Indians that are now coming in for their winter presents will soon reduce the quantity and we shall certainly be much embarras'd on this head if the supply of 200 Barrels of Pork and 300 of Flour cannot be got up this fall.

I am sorry to inform you that a report prevails here of the boat I sent to Mashadash for the Flour having been lost with all the Crew, the length of time she has been gone gives too much colour to this story

I have the honor to be &c &c &c (signed) Charles Roberts . Capt. 10th V. B.

Colonel Proctor.

[C 677-p 161.]

TO MAJ. GEN. BROCK—WITHOUT SIGNATURE

(*Command Money*)

Head Quarters Montreal 19th October 1812

Sir

I have been honored with your letters dated the 9th & 11th Octr together with their several enclosures,—Two companies of the Glengary Levy are to 168 leave LaChine on Wednesday for Cornwall & Prescott taking with them two light Gun Boats, some hundred stand arms with a proportion of Ammunition—Having *had repeatedly* cause to mistrust *the judgment in command of Colonel Lethbridge* , he has been relieved by Lieut Colonel Pearson, Whose zeal & talents as a soldier I have frequently witnessed.

In the present state of affairs there exists a much greater desire than ability in the United states for the recovery of the Michigan Territory.

The precedent for an increase of Pay to which Colonel Proctor alludes in his letter to you of the 1st of October does not apply to his situation at Detroit which cannot be considered as coming within the provision of the Secty at War's letter of the 10th of Jany as it confines the allowance of 10 & 20 Shls pr diem to cases of Regimental officers without regular staff appointments succeeding to the command of His Majestys Troops abroad by the death or absence of the Comg officer.

Colonel Vincent received the allowance whilst holding the Command allotted to Major Genl Welder, absent and as you have already in Upper Canada one Genl officer more than has been Considered necessary by His Majesty's Government for that Provance, I can only Augment the Command money allowed to Colonel Proctor upon a representation from you of the increase of duty & expense brought upon him by the administration of the Government of the Michigan territory, you recommending at the same time an adequate remuneration.

I much regret the loss of H. Ms Brig Detroit & the private Brig Caledonia, I am induced to think from your statement of the Circumstance, that had proper precaution been adopted & due vigilance observed so disgraceful an event could not have occurred.

Aware of the desire of the Enemy to obtain a naval superiority on both Lakes I have not failed to represent to His Majesty's Ministers the absolute necessity of enabling me to maintainthe ascendency we now possess by sending experienced officers & able seamen for the Marine service in upper Canada, You will of course take measures to preserve the superiority you possess on those waters & authorise the execution of such services as you may deem essential for that object without further reference.

I have not prescribed limits to Your Marine operations when Calculated upon the great object of preserving a naval superiority on the Lakes. nor have I been disposed to encourage them from the want of energy evinced upon trial by the Comrs of the Vessels on Lake Ontario.

In the present state of the War I still would have you refrain from unnecessary hostility calculated to weaken our force, to widen the breach existing between the two Countries & unproductive of real advantage

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I will endeavour to reinforce the Artillery under your command before our communication closes.

I have not the least apprehension but that you will be able to repell any simultaneous attack which the Enemy may make on Detroit & Fort George

Majr Genl. Brock &c &c &c *Memo: for the Agit Genl to 2d Capt. & 15 Gunners* upon the arrival of the expected reinforcement

[C 681-p 323.]

EDWARD DEWAR TO COLONEL M'DOUALL1

1 See appendix.

(*War—1812*)

Amherstburg October 19th 1812

Sir ,

In the letter which I had the honor of addressing to you under date of the 4th Instant, I mentioned the report which had been made from several quarters of the approach of the enemy to the foot of the Rapids of the Miami, and of a party having even been seen at the River Raisin.

Colonel Proctor having desired me to go the latter place in order to secure Mr. Reynolds of the Commissariate from any attempt that might be made to disturb him in his employment, and having ordered 25 Militia and 20 Indians to accompany me, I crossed to Brownstown on the 7th, to which place Col. Elliott had sent Interpreters to procure the Indians. In this they had entirely failed, but in the course of the night I prevailed upon Roundhead, a Wyandot chief whom I could place every confidence in, and fourteen of his warriors to accompany me to the Rapids. On the eighth we proceeded to the River Raisin, where the militia arrived in boats the next day. During this interval I ascertained that the report which had caused Mr. Elliott to leave this settlement so precipitately, was raised by some of the settlers, probably with the view of stealing some of the cattle which he had been purchasing for government, and of which he in fact lost 28 Head out of 50.—On the 9th a Potowatomie chief arrived with his band from the Rapids, he called upon me with four of his men who left that place only the preceding afternoon, and who informed me that they had actually seen a party of Shawanoe Indians of the American party, and had even entered into conversation with them across the River, but that seeing American 22 170 soldiers coming out of the wood they had thought it advisable to come away.

On the next morning I proceeded on with the Wyandots, and a few volunteers of the River Raisin Settlers all mounted and well armed. As we had to proceed with caution it was night before we reached the Rapids, without having met a single enemy's track, tho we had been to the ford and some way on both roads above it before we ventured to the only House of the Settlement that the Indians had left standing—Here we found two or three Canadians, and learned from them that no American had been heard of since Captn Muir's retreat—

After having sent a couple of trusty men across the River to proceed along Hall's road, I went myself with Roundhead and two more about twenty five miles up the river, leaving the rest of my party to drive in cattle which had been abandoned in great numbers by the American settlers. At the upper rapids we fell in during the night with an Indian scouting party, belonging to a Camp of Creeks and Mascons, from the Floridas who had followed thus far our troops and were undecided whether they would go any further as they had not been able to overtake them. They agreed however to return with me to Amherstburg. In the morning we were joined by some Kickapoos, who had on the preceding day left the vicinity of the American Camp which they described as being 3 miles above Fort Defiance, and occupied by no more than 800 men, who were building Block houses, and as they asserted were in want of Provisions. These Indians had a scalp which they had taken from a Horseman within the line of the enemy's Centinels. Having now what I considered from the character of the men who gave it, correct information, I returned to the Rapids, where my Cattle Drivers had been unsuccessful, the cattle having been so much shot at by Indians that only twenty were secured out of about 200 that were seen; even these escaped before we reached the River Raisin. I made some Canadians estimate the quantity of Indian corn that was still in the fields of the once flourishing settlement of the Miami Rapids. they did so at 8000 bushels.

On the 18th I arrived here having been detained one day by the circumstance of my horse being shot under me by accident. Mr. Reynolds remained behind to secure some more cattle, of which he had already purchased 86 at a moderate rate, on the 16th what quantity of wheat could be had in the settlement of the River Raisin and the adjacent ones of Swan Creek and Otter Creek, was not correctly ascertained, as for want of Horses (*all* belonging to these settlements having been stolen by the Potawatomies and Delawares) none of the grain has yet been threshed out, but I should think about 3000 Bushels. This is a small quantity for so rich a settlement, which 171 extends for 15 miles up the River furnishes a quota of near 300 men to the militia, but the destruction occasioned by the war has been

very great indeed, not only in that article, but also in Cattle and Hogs which have been wantonly destroyed by the Indians.

The Inhabitants are with I believe few exceptions well disposed toward us and proved it on Capt Muir's expedition by joining him to the number of 47 under one of their principal men. If any encouragement was held out to them I have no doubt but that a number of them would take arms for us again and settle in Canada. Their farms and Houses bespeak them the most industrious Canadians that I have yet seen in either province.

The Road from Brownstown to the River Raisin is for about 10 miles swampy and almost impassable after Rains. The River Huron is Bridged and not fordable, the Swan and Sandy Creeks are always fordable with good bottom, as also Rocky Creek. From River Raisin to the Rapids1 the Road runs chiefly thro' Savannas and open Oak plains, both of which are sandy and the Road consequently good, the Creek (Otter; Kuhns; Swan Creek of the Miami) fordable, the second sometimes is dangerous but may be easily bridged.

1 See appendix.

It is in agitation that Col. Elliott with the Indians of whom there about 800 warriors here at present, shall go to the Rapids, which will be a great relief to us as our provisions are very low indeed.

I have the honor to be Sir Your very obedt humble Servt Edwd Dewar , Dey M. G.

Colonel McDonnell &c &c &c

[C 677-p 136.]

MAJ. GEN. SHEAFFE TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*Command Money*)

Fort George 27th Oct. 1812

Sir

I have the honor of representing to your Excellency that a great increase of duty and of Expense has been brought upon Colonel Proctor by his administering the Government of the Conquered territory of Michigan; I, therefore, beg leave to offer the case to Your Excellency's Consideration, 172 and to recommend that Colonel Proctor shall be allowed a remuneration of twenty shillings a day, or such other sum as may be deemed adequate, for the whole period of his administering that Government.

I have the honor to be With great respect Your Excellency's Most obedt humble servant R. H. Sheaffe M. Genl. &c.

Sir George Prevost &c &c &c

[C 677-p 143.]

COLONEL PROCTOR TO MAJOR EVANS

(*War—1812*)

Detroit October 28th 1812

Sir

I have the honor to send you, the enclosed letter from Chief Justice Woodward to me, with a copy of my answer: which I request may be laid before Major General Sheaffe, as also that in conformity thereto.—Colonel Elliott, and Major McKee, have signified to the chiefs of the Tribes in Question that it is their wish and mine that the unfortunate Individuals concerned should be brought to me, and which the chiefs have promised shall be done.1 —I hope what I have done will meet with the General's approbation, as also

the accompanying Packets' being put into an American Post office—it is directed to Mr Gallatin; I know the Contents, which principally relate to the unfortunate survivors from Chicago

1 See appendix.

I have the honour to be Sir Your most obedient Humble servant Henry Proctor Colonel Comg

(signed) Brigade Major Evans Fort George

[C 677-p 157.]

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COL. ELLIOTT TO MR. CLAUS

(*War—1812*)

Amherstburg 28th Octobr 1812

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 22d I received yesterday afternoon, and I assure you its contents relieved us from much anxiety with respect to the event of the action of the 13th of which we had heard something from Capt Baines. How much is the death of our Gallant General to be lamented.1 I am afraid that his bravery led him to expose himself too much.

1 Refers to the death of Gen. Brock at Queenstown, Oct. 13, 1813.

I am to leave this place tomorrow for the foot of the Rapids being obliged to take the Indians there from the scarcity of provisions at this place, so great is the scarcity that I believe I shall not leave two days provisions in the stores. The Indians will not go without me and as there is a great quantity of corn at the foot of the Rapids which was planted

by the Americans I intend to pitch my Tent there and let them feed on the corn and from thence I shall constantly send out parties to annoy General Winchester who has thrown up some works about a mile above the old Fort Defiance. I delivered the Speech and Scalp to the Indians here and they were highly delighted with the news of your success. If you think that you stand in need of any assistance from our Indians you must write as I think it probable we may be able to spare some of them.

I am Dear Sir Yours sincerely (Signed) M. Elliott true copy Mr Claus D. S. G.

Col Claus Depy Supt & Inspt Genl

P. S. I will be impossible to keep the Indians together much longer unless we are immediately supplied with Provisions. The Indians have lost three crops of corn and now the sole dependence is upon us.

M. E.

A party of Indians who had been out to the River Huron some miles beyond Sandusky returned this morning with the scalp of an American & a young lad prisoner. The information I got from the Boy was. That the Americans had 500 Militia Men at the River Huron that General Perkins who commanded there had sent some scouts to Governor Harrison to require assistance in men: but the Governor having gone towards the Wabash the scouts returned without seeing him and General Perkins went himself to see 174 Gov H. 2 or 3 days before the Boy was taken which happened 6 days ago, he also said that Harrison and Winchester were to attack us here in the Winter.

We have no paper.

M. E.

(true copy) W Claus D. S. G.

Library of Congress

[C 677-p 176.]

COLONEL PROCTOR TO MAJ. GEN. SHEAFFE

(*War—1812*)

Detroit October 30th 1812

My Dear General

The arrival of the Express relieved me from some anxiety, I own, and removed the fear which had been caused by the Accounts brought by the Lady Prevost.—A Mr. McKenzie Caused here great alarm, which always operates strongly here, however, the affair of the 13th inst. has raised very much the spirits of the Indians. I was induced to apprehend that Fort Erie had been evacuated, and might be for a short time in the possession of the Enemy—The Charlotte was directed to proceed Cautiously, and after I thought an Express might have reached me, I sent Lieut. Barnard 41st Regt to procure information, also a Captain Caldwell (Militia staff) and some of the Wyndotts.—Mr. Dickson and Mr. Crawford, left this in the Lady Prevost; you must have seen them long ere this—I need not observe that they can, especially the former, give you every Information respecting our situation here; and also respecting our Interest in the Indian Country.—The great defect in the Indian Department, is the want of a leader of influence in the field.—McKee's constitution is gone, indeed, I have fears for his life,—Colonel Elliott goes to the Rapids of the Miame's —The Gun Boats and vessels attend him. Besides the object of Keeping the Indians in Employ and the Enemy at a distance, it is one to lessen the consumption of provisions. I have made it a particular object to ascertain and to secure the surplus produce of this Territory. In short the Enemy shall have as little inducement as possible to advance here.

I conceive Mr. Harrison would have been ere now acting in Concert with the Enemy in Your quarter, if the Indians, (I believe those on the White River) had not employed him. It must be recollected that he is in force not far from us, and in the event of success, would

be soon upon us, especially as we have not a force sufficient to inspire the Indians with Confidence. May I be permitted to offer you my fixed opinion, that the safety of the upper province depends more particularly on our Keeping our present position 175 here:—If we lose it the Indians are irrecoverably lost1 ; and whilst we secure them, we can always recover any position of the Province. A Regiment would secure this District from any attempt I can suppose the Enemy to make; our Indians might then be brought into full effect.—I am well aware that no Troops can be spared at present from Fort George, but a considerable re-inforcement must surely arrive there this season.—Permit me earnestly to entreat that when it may be in your power to reinforce this District, it may be by such a portion of the 41st as you may judge proper. If I had even the staff of the Corps, and the usual appendages to its Head Quarters with me, I could be of some use to the Corps; in its present state it must suffer in many respects.—I understand that Lieut Colonel Nicholls had been sent to Montreal, as Q. M. Gl to make some purchases for the Militia: I hope that the Militia here are to benefit by his journey—He is much wanted here,—I fear from the long sickness of Captain Muir, that the interest of the Captors of the Public property here has suffered materially by his absence. I am under the necessity of sending some Pork and Flour to Mackinac, without delay, as the enclosed Copy of a letter from Captain Roberts will show.—It is not in our power to send the quantities required.—I am sorry to say that there are great deficiencies of every requisite in the Barrack Department—I have taken measures to ascertain the military resources of this District, particularly on the Thames settlement, and in this Territory, I shall acquaint you with every circumstance and occurrence worthy of your notice.

1 A confession of the reliance placed upon Indian allies.

And remain My dear Sir Most faithfully Yours (signed) Henry Proctor Colonel Comg.

Major General Sheaffe Fort George

[C 677-p 163.]

FROM LIEUTENANT BARNARD—UNADDRESSED

(*War—1812*)

Fort George 31 October 1812

Sir

I have the Honor to inform you that I was ordered to this place from Detroit by Colonel Proctor, on the 24th Inst, to ascertain whether the 176 enemy had cut off the communication between the two places, as, from Colonel Proctors not having received any official account of an Action which he heard had been fought at Queenston on the 13th inst. he had reason to fear it was the case; and as I received any information relating to it, on which I could depend, I was ordered to transmit it to him.—Colonel Proctor ordered me to inform you that Colonel Elliott was going out to the foot of the Miamis Rapids with about three or four hundred Indians, and on their arrival there, they were to be joined by more. Their object in going was to watch the movements of the Americans (who were fortifying themselves about two miles above Fort Defiance, on the Glaize River) and, if they could do it with advantage, to attack them; From their having been so long in their present position, Colonel Proctor does not imagine that it is their intention to advance any further into the Country this Year—Colonel Proctor also ordered me to say that he was at a large Indian Council at Amherstburg, a few days before I left Detroit, and the Indians all seemed unanimously inclined to support us

I have the honor to be Sir Your obedt humble Servant (signed) I. Barnard Lt. 41st Regt.

[C 677-p 144.]

MAJ. GEN. SHEAFFE TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Fort George 3d November 1812.

Sir

I have at last the satisfaction of reporting to your Excellency the arrival of intelligence from Detroit and likewise from Michilimackinac. His majesty's Schooner Lady Prevost arrived some days since bringing Mr. Robert Dickson and Mr. Crawford; when they left Detroit no other information had been received of the occurrences of the 13th of October, than that M. General Brock had fallen, and Queenstown was in the possession of the Enemy —Colonel Proctor fearing that the communication was cut off would not send a written communication either by them or by Colonel Caldwell or Lieut. Barnard who have since arrived by land.—The substance of what the last was directed to say to me is contained in a written statement herewith enclosed, to which I have added Mr. Dickson's intelligence.

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Whilst engaged in writing this dispatch Lieut Colonel Bishop1 has arrived by the way of York—and has brought me your Excellency's dispatch of the 21st of October: I beg that your Excellency will accept my very grateful thanks for the kind and gracious manner in which you have noticed my humble services; fortune and the comparative composition of the corps which I commanded were quite adequate to the accomplishment of all that was effected on the 13th of October. I am much mortified to find that I omitted the names of Captain Chisholm Commanding a Flank Company of the York Militia, and of Lieut. Ball commanding the Militia Artillery attached to the post of Queenstown; Captain Dennis's report, since transmitted, has partly supplied that omission; he commends highly both those officers, and in justice to them I have issued an order acknowledging my omission and their merit.—

1 See appendix.

I sent to the Military Secretary some documents relative to appointments which appear to me to be beneficial to His Majestys Service, those in the Barrack Department were authorized by M. General Brock: I transmit also Major Heathcote's report of the attack made on the escort under his command, not being certain that a copy of it has been before sent down.—

The Enemy appears to be busily employed in preparing for another attack, and, I believe, has received reinforcements, and supplies of various kinds; a number of large boats has been conveyed by land above the Falls, and are on the communication between Schlosser and Black rock, where the greater part of their Force seems to be collected; I have strengthened the right of our line, and I intend detaching to it a portion of the Indians, of whom there are about four hundred here, but I shall be cautious of making any further diminution of the number on this Flank.

I suspect that after their demonstration on the frontier of the Lower Province, a large portion of their troops was withdrawn to act against the Upper Province.—

We are yet employed in raising works for the protection of the interior of Fort George:—the Magazine is considered secure from the effect of hot shot.—

The Armistice still continues—and I hope will not be terminated before the arrival of the vessels with the supplies for the militia—many of whom are in a very destitute state with respect to clothing, and all in what regards bedding and Barrack comforts in general:—these wants cause discontent and desertion, but the conduct of a great majority of them is highly honorable to them, and I have not failed to encourage it, by noticing it in public orders. Their number in this district has been so much increased since the 178 nomination of a Pay Master for it, and his business is so much in arrear, that I have been compelled to appoint two other Pay Masters for the corps distributed along the frontier.

I wrote to Captain Glegg who is at York, to acquaint him with your Excellencys gracious offer to him, which I have no doubt he will be proud to accept.

I hope that a favorable reception has been accorded to my request to have Captain Loring1 sent to me.

1 See appendix.

An Express has arrived this afternoon from Colonel Proctor I transmit copies of the letters received by it.

I have the honour to be with high respect Your Excellency's Most devoted, humble Servant, R. H. Sheaffe M. Genl. &c &c

His Excellency Sir George Prevost &c &c &c.

[C 677-p 166.]

COLONEL PROCTOR TO MAJ. GEN. SHEAFFE

(*War—1812*)

Extract of a letter from Colonel Proctor to Major General Sheaffe dated Detroit 9th November 1812.

Colonel Elliott is at the foot of the Rapids of the Miamis, with a considerable body of Indians, whom it is intended to feed upon cattle and corn, which there are there, and which would be an object to the enemy to find, in their advance upon us. The cattle are too wild to be driven off, and the corn it would take some time to remove, and we found could not be burned, or destroyed. I have not heard from him since his arrival there. The River Huron below Sandusky has two blockhouses on it, and the Enemy are there with a Field Piece, and about five hundred in number, under the command of a General

Wadsworth. There are many more cutting a Road in that neighborhood, under the direction of a Captain Brush, the same who would not be included in General Hull's capitulation, and turned back from the River Raisin with a small convoy. Inspector General Harrison 179 has employment for the present, on or near the Wabash. I have directed the Lady Prevost to cruise to the Islands, to the mouth of the Huron, and to Sandusky, then to return, that she may be ready to go to Fort Erie, should Troops or Stores arrive.

I have the honor to be &c &c &c (Signed) Henry Proctor , Colonel

Major General Sheaffe &c &c &c

[C 677-p 179.]

COLONEL ELLIOTT TO MR. IRONSIDE

(*War—1812*)

Foot Of The Rapids ,1 10th Novemr 1812

1 See appendix.

Dear Sir

I arrived here safe on the evening of the 7th after a most unpleasant passage rendered particularly so through the negligence of Averson. On my arrival I was told that Clark had gone out in the morning to hunt, he did not return that evening, and the next morning a Delaware came in and stated that he had met 40 Americans very near this on their return to Sandusky, and we can see in a cornfield opposite to this place the backs of their Horses and as Clark has not come in yet, I am afraid he has fallen into their hands. Another party of the Enemy 6 in number came down from Fort Defiance on the morning of the 8th within two miles of this. So that I expect we shall have something for to do in a short time. I hope you hurry out with the Indians that are about Amherstberg as we have only 250 here

including the Hurons send out if you can find a safe opportunity 300 lbs Powder as 150 lbs of that we brought with us has been damaged in the vessel through the inattention of Averson.

Yours &ca (Sig'd) M. Elliott

Mr. Ironside (True copy) W. Claus D. S. G .

[C 677-p 178.]

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CAPTAIN GLEGG TO COLONEL BAYNES

(*Indians*)

York 11th Nov. 1812.

My Dear Sir ,

At the request of Mr. Robert Dickson the bearer of this letter who intends proceeding immediately to Montreal on his private affairs, I take the liberty of giving him an introduction to you, in order that previous to his being presented to His Excellency some interesting particulars may be made known through your obliging communication.

Mr. Dickson is closely connected with the most respectable families in this province, who have invariably shown themselves sincere & zealous friends to His Majesty's Government.

The gentleman in question has resided for a number of years in the character of a merchantile Trader in the Western Territory, and owing to his influence & assistance with the powerful Tribes of Indians some important services have been performed for the British Cause. His influential Interest with the Western Indians has been repeatedly acknowledged by this Government, and his efforts in having decided, that much injured

race of Aborigines to abstain from hostilities with the United States have been well known here & duly acknowledged—During the month of Feb. 1812, existing circumstances made it highly necessary to ascertain the sentiments & intentions of the Western Indians—Promises of their continued forbearance had been constantly made thro' the Agents of the Indian Department, but it was much apprehended by my vigilante & ever to be lamented friend, that the attack made by General Harrison's Army upon the Shawanese Indians assembled under the Prophet on the Wabash on the 7th Nov. 18111 might possibly produce some spirit of retaliation—It now became an object of considerable importance to open a communication without loss of time, with the neighboring Indians bordering on the Mississippi. No doubt could be then entertained of the premeditated destruction of the Indians by the Americans, and that merely because they had *presumed* to continue to establish themselves in the peaceful occupation of their native woods & villages. The most prompt measures were immediately adopted by the head of this Government, in conformity with the repeated Instructions of His Excellency and those of his predecessor Sir James Craig, to prevent by every possible exertion the threatening flame from reaching our Frontier—Mr. Dickson's influence with the Indians being well known, the advantage of immediately opening a communication with him became obvious, and the accompanying paper No. 1 was dispatched to him early in Feb. last by two

1 The crushing defeat administered by Harrison to the Indians whom the Prophet had confederated against the Americans at Tippecanoe.

181 confidential Indians. Mr. Dickson was then at the Portage called Ouisconsin which is about one hundred and eighty miles from the Mississippi and the some distance from La Baie, about 800 miles from Amherstburg. He was then employed in administering in his merchantile capacity, to the severe distresses of their women & children who were literally languishing for want of food & clothing, owing to our supplies having been discontinued & to the severity of the season.

Mr. Dickson received the enclosed paper No. 1 early in May and immediately replied to it No. 2. Previous to this date Mr. Dickson had observed an unusual degree of activity in

the American agents who were then residing amongst the Indians & having ascertained that presents were daily distributed by these people, which by the by was a novel circumstance; he made immediate inquiry, and was informed by some of the principal Chiefs that the American agents had been directed by their Government, to invite some of their leading warriors from each nation, to pay an early visit to Washington. A combination of various circumstances left no doubt in the mind of Mr. Dickson that all this was intended as a prelude to more important events. His first endeavour was to dissuade the chiefs from listening to the invitation of the American Government & to point out the imminent danger of the alliance. Mr. Dickson fully succeeded in every object, & he received the strongest assurance of friendship and support in the cause of their Father the British Monarch, whenever circumstances should render their assistance necessary. Soon after this communication passed, intelligence reached the Wabash Indians that General Hull with an army of two thousand men was on his march to Detroit. The Shawanese and other Nations voluntarily offered to attack him on his route but were induced to desist from it by the repeated entreaties of the friends and agents of the British Government. It is however a well known fact that General Hull's movements were all closely watched by Tecumpthsey's confidential scouts, who were considered and received by the American General, as friends attached to their interests. At the capture of Michillimackinac Mr. Dickson took an active part & his services on that occasion, have been honorably recorded by Captain Roberts. After the surrender of that Post, an expedition was immediately formed (at the solicitation of Major General Brock) by the gentlemen of the Northwest and Southwest Companies then assembled at Michillimackinac to cooperate with the force then contemplated to be employed against Detroit. So imperious however was the necessity for despatch, in carrying this operation into execution that the expedition under Major General Brock reached its destination and succeeded in its object before the 182 Indians intended for assistance, could form a juncture with our little army. The intelligence of their approach had however reached the Enemy & I have particular reason for knowing that this circumstance produced very considerable influence in their final negotiations.

In Justice to the memory of our lamented friend Major General Brock, & in obedience to what I am confident, would have been his intentions, I have taken the liberty of troubling you with this confidential communication, which you will be pleased to make use of, as your superior Judgment & discretion may point out. I am not aware of Mr. Dickson's immediate views in soliciting an interview with His Excellency but I have a perfect knowledge that there is no gentleman in this Province more capable than himself of giving accurate information respecting the Western Nations than himself, & I am authorized in saying, that had General Brock survived the late contest, he intended pointing out Mr. Dickson to the notice of His Majesty's Government, as a gentleman who by his zealous and faithful services had proved himself deserving of their special protection

I remain My dear Sir with much esteem very faithfully yours J. B. Glegg Capt 49th Regt

Colonel Baynes Adjt General

[C 256-p 229.]

COL. ELLIOTT TO COL. ST. GEORGE

(*War—1812*)

Foot Of The Rapids 11th Novr 1812 10 O'clock P. M.

Dear Sir

A trusty Indian whom I sent out on the morning of the 9th has just returned with intelligence that the Enemy have begun their March from Fort Defiance1 for this Place and that they encamped on the 10th three or four Miles from Fort Defiance.

1 Defiance is 40 miles above the rapids and is located at the junction of the Auglaize and Maumee rivers.

As I think that it must be their object to make a halt here & erect Block Houses or a Fort, it appears to me highly Expedient that we should do all in our power to prevent their doing so and for that purpose it will require 183 all the Troops that can possibly be spared & some pieces of Artillery.—I shall this moment send out for all the Indians that are near this place I shall be constantly on the look out.

It is unnecessary for me to say that I shall be extremely anxious for an answer to this.

I am Dear Sir Your Humble Servant (Signed) M. Elliott

Colonel St. George

P. S. I have not with me at present more than two hundred and fifty Indians M. E.

[C 677-p 181.]

TREATY FOR RELEASE OF PRISONERS

Treaty for the Release of Prisoners of war upon their parole, and for their eventual exchange, concluded at Whitehall U. S. 12 November 1812, between Major General Dearborn commander of the Forces of the United States in the Northern Department, and Robt McDonall Esqr Captain of the 8th or Kings Regt of Infantry and Aid de camp to the Governor in Chief of the Canadas duly authorized by his Excellency Lt General Sir George Prevost.

Article 1st .

The American Prisoners of War at present in Canada, are to be embarked for Boston with as much expedition as circumstances will admit, on their parole not to carry arms, or engage in active hostility or perform any military Service whatever, until regularly exchanged.

None of these troops are to be suffered to remain upon the frontier, or with any corps engaged on actual service.—

Article 2

Prisoners of war who may be prevented by sickness from returning to their country, will be sent when sufficiently recovered, by the post of St Johns, a receipt for the men by name, being given by the officer at the advance post who receives them.—

Article 3rd—

The Detachment of Canadian voyageurs, and all British Prisoners of war, of whatever description belonging to the British Forces in Canada, are to be immediately sent upon their parole to the nearest Advanced Post towards St. Johns, apprising the commandant of the circumstance, who will give a receipt for the same.

They will of course be subject to the same restrictions as those mentioned in the first 1st Article.

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Article 4

Should the fortunes of war hereafter place British prisoners, whether Regulars or Militia, in the Power of the American Government, they are immediately to be sent back to the nearest British Post, and an equal number of American prisoners are in consequence to be released and exonerated from their parole; as far as may be practicable, all exchanges to be kept distinct, Troops of the line for Regulars; embodied Militia for the Militia taken in Arms; and other corps according to their respective engagements, and organization.

Article 5th

In the event of the Prisoners of war of either Country who are on parole, being permitted to reside at their respective homes, the utmost precaution to be taken by both Governments, in impressing upon their minds the serious consequences which must result to them should they inconsiderately engage in any Corps or Regiment, or perform any military duty, until it is officially announced to them that they are regularly exchanged and released from their parole: and in order that no mistake may arise, involving such serious consequences; whenever any men are proposed to be exchanged, correct authenticated lists of the individuality are to be interchanged between the two Governments expressly mentioning the name and corps of each soldier thus rendered eligible again to bear arms in the service of his country.—

Article 6th

Should the British Government omitted to take Lists of the Militia released upon their parole at Detroit and Queenstown, the American Government is to furnish as correct Lists as can be procured in order to simplify and facilitate their exchange when circumstances render it practicable.—

Article 7th

Such British Prisoners, as are, or may be taken in Upper Canada, are to be sent to the nearest Military Post in that Country, instead of St. Johns.—

H. Dearborn Majr Genl Rt McDonall Captn Kings Regiment A. D. C. to Lt Govr Sir George Prevost

Head Quarter Montreal 24 Nov 1812 Ratified George Prevost Com of the Forces.

[C 690-p 32.]

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MR. IRONSIDE TO MR. CLAUS

(*War—1812*)

Amherstburg 13th Novemr 1812

Sir

I have just received the enclosed from Col. Elliott and being very much indisposed cannot copy it, the Indian who brought it says the Americans are advancing in a very strong body from Fort Defiance1 towards the Rapids, and states the number of Indians with the Colonel to be 800 and they are daily coming in.

1 The Glaize—Au Glaize.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Most Obedient humble Servant (Sigd) Geo: Ironside

The honble Willm Claus Esqre Deputy Supt General &c &c Fort George True Copy W. Claus D. S. G.

[C 677-p 182.]

EARL BATHRUST2 TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

2 See appendix.

(*War—1812*)

Downing Street 15 Novr 1812

Sir

The permission, which you have granted to General Hull and his Aid-de-camp to return to the United states on their Parole is perfectly in Unison with that Conciliatory Disposition which His Majesty's Government is always anxious to evince, when it Can be done with safety, towards the individuals of the Country—at the same time it is but Justice to those British subjects who may become Prisoners in America that this spirit of accommodation should only be Continued, so long as it is met by a similar spirit on the Part of the American Government.

I have the honor &c Bathurst

To Lieut General Sir George Prevost &c &c &c

[C 677-p 190.] 24

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MAJ. GEN. SHEAFFE TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*Indians*)

Fort George 17th November 1812.

Sir ,

I last night received letters from Colonel Proctor, copies of which I have the honor of forwarding to your Excellency. I also transmit some intelligence received by Colonel Claus in which there are details not noticed in Colonel Elliots letter to Lt Colonel St George—

I have the honour to be Your Excellency's most obedient humble servant R. H. Sheaffe M. Genl. Commg.

His Excellency Sir George Prevost &c. &c. &c.

[C 256-p 197.]

TO MR. COFFIN—WITHOUT SIGNATURE

(*War—1812*)

Fort George 17th November 1812.

Sir

I beg leave to put under cover copies of two letters from Col. Elliott dated 28th Oct and 10th Nov 1812—also one from Mr. George Ironside storekeeper dated 13 Inst all of which I received to-day and request you will lay the same before His Honour the President. Clark who is supposed to be a Prisoner is one of the Interpreters.

I have the honour to be Sir Your most obd servt

N. Coffin Esqr A. D. C.

P. S. Averson commanded the small vessel in which Col Elliott went to the Rapids.

[C 677-p 183.]

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MAJ. GEN. SHEAFFE TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*Provincial Marine*)

Fort George 23d November 1812

Sir ,

I have this day received a packet from York containing a letter from Colonel Vincent apprising me of the return of Paymaster Brock of the 49th Regiment from Sacketts Harbor, and of the intelligence brought from thence by him; it fully confirms that which had been previously received through several channels, of the activity of the Enemy in preparing the most formidable means for establishing a superiority on the Lakes; if the weather at this advanced period should countenance their design of employing them against us this season, and we should be fortunate enough to maintain our Military positions in this Province during the winter, it will require exertions of the most energetic kind to enable us to contend with them in the spring for the ascendancy on the Lakes, to obtain which engages the particular attention of the American Government as being necessary to the attainment of what is evidently the main object of the War, the possession of the Upper Province, with an ulterior view to establishing a control over the numerous Indian Nations.

I have the honor of transmitting to your Excellency a copy of an address which I have received from the Committee of the Executive council of this province respecting the comparative state of its Marine—the subject is indeed interesting and has a special claim on the attention of the Guardians of the public welfare—.

I have the honor to be, Your Excellencys, Most obedient humble Servant, R. H. Sheaffe M. Gen. &c.

His Excellency Sir George Prevost

[C 728-p 115.]

MR. MITCHELL TO MR. MONROE

(*War—1812*)

Halifax . 23rd Novr. 1812

Sir

I have now the honor to inform you, that Mr. Uniache, the Attorney-General, and myself have had another meeting, and reduced the regulations 188 proposed into a form that will be sent on to you as early as I can have it prepared. The tariff will conform exactly with the copy you sent me.—

The Cartels will, in the first instance be confined to *four* in Number, of 150 tons each; Say two forty to be Supported at the expence of each government.—

The depots proposed are Halifax, Quebec, Bridgetown in Barbadoes, and Kingston in Jamaica.

Boston, New York, Baltimore and Charleston So. Carolina; at each of which an agent is to reside.

For the reasons I mentioned in my last I still think Philadelphia would be preferable to New York. And much more so than Baltimore.

The Admiral not being able to stipulate anything respecting captures by land engages to write to Genrl Prevost, the Commander in Chief in Canada, to obtain his consent to the arrangement, and in that case exchanges by land and sea will be definitively Settled.—

With regard to each governments finding necessaries for its own people the Admiral had no power, as you'll perceive by his letter transmitted via New York per Maria.—

From the admirals want of power I could not obtain the release of Genl Hull, or any other officer of our army. But that of the officers & crews of the late Sloop of War the Nautilus and Wasp is now effected as you will perceive by the copy of certificate now enclosed.—

A merchant Vessel will sail from here in a few days by which I will send to Bermudas copy, that if the officers and crew of the Wasp have not left that, they may charter a Cartel

and return home. Capt Jacob Lewis in Conformity to your desire, is also freed from his parole. All these are against the Guerriere's officers and crew, part of Staines, and part of Avengeur. Lists of a general exchange will be prepared as soon as possible, and as soon as completed you shall have a copy transmitted to you for publication. Such I presume will be the Speediest mode of giving notice of the exchanges.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Mo. Obt St (Signed) John Mithchell .1

1 Mitchell was the American agent for the exchange of prisoners at Halifax.

The Hon. James Monroe Secretary of State.—

[C 690-p 44.]

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MEMORANDUM

(*Provincial Marine*)

Articles that are not in store and cannot be purchased for building a Vessel of 131 Tons Burthen Carrying 14 Guns for His Majesty's Service

Amherstburg 24th Nov. 1812

8 Inch Iron Shaft No 20 Dead Eyes. 6 Inch “ 20 Thick Cabin Glass 10 by 12 Inches Panes 50 Hinges Large Hook & Eye Pairs 18 Bolt 1 Inch Feet 350 “ ¾ “ “ 400 “ # “ “ 500 “ ½ “ “ 60 Iron Square 1 # Inch “ 100 “ ¾ “ “ 400 Flat 3 by ½ “ 50 “ 2 “ # “ 50 Sheet Lead Pounds 500 Sheets Copper Magazine No 100 Locks Copper “ 1 Nails Copper “ 1,200 Lin seed Oil Gallons 34 Paint White Pounds 140 Iron Bushed 1½ by 7 inches No 6 “ 2 “ 6 “ “ 12 “ 2 “ 7 “ “ 8 Sheaves Not-Bushed 1 ¼ “ 6 “ “ 12 “ 1 “ 4 “ “ 12 “ # “ 3 “ “ 24 Resin Barrels 1

N. B. The vessel ordered to be built at Amherstburg is for 18 Guns, and of a larger class than this estimate is calculated for, But as the old Iron from the Camden will Supply the deficiency, it is not necessary to make any alterations in the quantities demanded—

A Gray actg. Dy. Q. M. G.

[C 729-p 3.]

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RETURN

Monthly General Distribution Return of the Troops in Upper Canada Nov 25th 1812

Amherstburg & Detroit 25 Oct

Commanded by Lieut Col St George.

Corps Lt. Cols Capts Lieuts Serjts 41st Regt 1. 2 6 12 Drummers Rank & file fit for duty Hosp Sick Quarters Total* 2 238 7 * 11 = 256

* These totals include only the rank and file.

Michilimackinac & St Josephs 25th Sept

Commanded by Capt Robert 10th R. Vet Bat. Corps. Royal Artillery 10th R. Vet. Battalion Newfoundland Regt doing Marine duty on the Lakes—

Sergt Rank and file Total—2 Royal Artillery 1 2 = 10th Royal Capt Lieuts Ens Adjt Serjts 1 2 1 1 2 Vet Battalion Rank and file Total 39 39 = Newfoundland Lieuts Serjts Drummrs Rank & File Total Regt 2 3 4 117 117 =

[Freer papers, 1812–13-p 56.]

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MR. GRAY TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*Provincial Marine*)

Kingston 3rd Decr 1812

Sir ,

I feel it my duty to take the earliest opportunity of laying before Your Excellency such information as I have been enabled to collect relative to the state of the Marine in this Province.

I was not prepared to meet with anything very consolitory in this Branch of the Service, and I am sorry to add, that all the unfavorable reports I received of its state, are confirmed in the fullest extent. The officers of the marine appear to be destitute of all energy and spirit, and are sunk into contempt in the eyes of all who know them. The want of seamen is so great that the Royal George has only 17 men on board who are capable of doing their duty, and the Moira only 10 able seamen.* On the other hand the efforts of the enemy are such, that nothing can save our navy from destruction, the moment that navigation opens in the spring.

* 34 on the March.

Dy Q. M. Gen to procure more.

They have already got the ascendancy in Lake Ontario, by manning the Oneida Brig, and manning and arming six or seven of their mercht craft. The force is at present an even match for our three armed vessels, constituted *as they are at present;* but when to this force of the enemy, is added the Frigate they are now building at Sachetts Harbour, we shall be completely at their mercy in every direction; and what renders this state of things more mortifying there does not appear the least chance of our being enabled, by any exertion with our limited means, of keeping pace with the enemy, so much has he got the start of us Cap Brock has just arrived on parole from Sachetts Harbour, and fully confirms the Reports that had previously reached us, of the exertion the enemy are making at that place. The Frigate was expected to be launched in a fortnight, or three weeks, and another

is to be laid down on the same slip. This he had from Commador Chanay himself, who it seems was very communicative, and full of confidance in his strength.—

When I arrived I found the Royal George and Moira here, with the intention of wintering, as there is no force at present at York to protect them.

I have sellected a station for them calculated on defensive measures only, as our object now, I conceive, is to prevent, if we can, the enemy from getting possession of our vessels. The Prince Regt. is employed in transporting stores between York and Niagara.

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As to the works of defence here; but little can be said; about six or 8 small ship guns are mounted in the Batteries, and a block House is built upon the high ground for the protection of the Harbour, mounting at present a 6 and a 9 pounder, the whole capable of making but a feeble resistance to the force the enemy has the power of bringing against us.

At the same time that I communicate to your Excellency the unfavorable situation we are placed in by the exertions of the enemy and the total want of means on our part, I beg leave humbly to suggest the only mode left for us to recover at a blow, what we have lost.

I find from the information I have been enabled to collect, that Sachetts Harbour is not at present in a state to make any resistance against a Coup de Main, if we were in sufficient force. There are but Two Batteries and these are upon points forming the Harbour, and lately appropriated to the Marine defences of this place, and it does not appear that there are any Block houses, or inclosed works of any sort, nor any measures taken to defend the place against any attack by land.

The force at present in Sachetts Harbour consist of about 1000 Militia, in a wretched state of equipment, much discontented and very sickly, one company of Artillery (Regulars) and about 200 Ship carpenters and seamen. The distance from hence to Sachetts Harbour is

about 45 miles viz to gravelly point 14 miles, here the enemy has a post of 200 Militia in a Musquet proof Barrack (loop holed) Between this point and Sachetts Harbour the distance is 31 miles, mostly through wood, with scattered settlements and parted clearings.

This road will be beaten, in order to carry supplies between Sachetts Harbour and gravelly point; but from here to gravelly point the road must be beaten.

The force requisite for this service need not be very great. I should imagine one good Regiment exclusive of what may be collected here, would be sufficient. If your Excellency approves of the suggestions I have taken the liberty of submitting, the necessary preparation may be made below, and the men destined for this service provided with snow shoes, and trained to the use of them. I am aware that this enterprise is not without risk, there is however every prospect of success, as this post is very distant from any succour. I believe Albany is the nearest point from whence they could be reinforced with effect, which is as far distant from Sachetts Harbour, as Montreal is from hence. If the troops from the Lower Province are put in motion about the latter end of January, they could reach this at a good season for making the attack they would not be more than 10 days in reaching this, in light marching order.—

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They need be above a month absent from Montreal. Either the King's Regiment (with its flank Companies) or the flank Battallion would be sufficient for this purpose. The principal thing to be apprehended, would be the intelligence of our movements reaching the enemy; but if the enterprize is conducted with despatch, the blow would be struck before he could avail himself of any information he might receive. We would require 3 or 4 pieces of Artillery, on sleighs, to destroy any Block houses or temporary works they may in the meantime run up.

If this measure is not adopted, some efforts out of the common Routine must be made. There are not shipwrights in this province to execute half the work required. It might, under

those circumstances, be advisable to engage *all* the Master Shipwrights in Lower Canada, with their men, and send them up to work by contract, or otherwise.—

The Ships being laid up here is not choice, but accident, as they were sent with the view of returning, but the weather has been so severe that they could not get back to York.

It is, as I have already stated, perhaps the wisest policy to keep them here under the present Circumstances.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellencys most obedient and most humble Servant A. Gray Actg Dy Q. M. Genl

To His Excellency Lt Genl Sir George Prevost Commander of the Forces &c

[C 728-p 135.]

STATEMENT OF MR. DICKSON

(*Indians*)

Having obtained a supply of merchandize at St. Josephs from the Montreal merchants, I left that place in the latter end of August 1811 and notwithstanding the impediments thrown in my way by the American Government, I was fortunate enough to reach the country where I successfully carried on my trade.

During the winter I found the Agents of the American Government using every means in their power to influence the Indians in their behalf, by making them unusual presents of goods and inviting them in the most pressing 25 194 manner to visit the President of the United States at Washington, where it was held out to them, they would hear something of the utmost importance.

From these circumstances I was inclined to believe that something hostile was meditated against our Govt. and being the only individual in that country possessed of the means of frustrating their intentions I took such steps as I trust will be approved of by His Excellency the Commander in Chief.

The Calamitous state of the Indian Tribes at that time was peculiarly distressing, the crops of those who cultivate the ground having failed from the great drought of the preceding summer; and owing to the same cause those who subsisted entirely by the chace were deprived of provisions, the large animals having gone northwards in quest of food.

I left the River Mississippi on my return to St. Josephs with a number of Indians after having supplied their families with ammunition and provisions at a great expence I was met at the Portage of the Ouisconsing by two Courriers from Amherstburg with a communication from general Brock, in consequence of which I sent a Party of Indians from Labaye to Amherstburg where they remained during the Summer and were in every engagement with the Enemy.

I forbear entering into any detail respecting the Indians who accompanied me as I presume that their conduct has already been made known to His Excellency the Commander in Chief.

A Statement of Expences incurred for the above purposes is here subjoined.

1812 July 20

To amount of Robert Dickson & Co's account of sundries furnished the Scioux, Follesavoine and Winibago Indians p. account herewith No. 1 20973 0 0

To paid Francis Boutellier for sundries at Prairie du Chiens for do. p. acct. No. 2 $995 0 5970 0 0

To paid Pierre Grignon for funds for do. p. acct. No. 3 624 0 0

To cash pr Louis Grignon for one ox for do 300 0 0

To cash pr Dr. Mitchell for provisions for do 876 0 0

To cash pr Paul Ducharme for an ox for do 300 0 0

To amount of Jacob Franks account of sundries for said Indians pr acct. No. 4 12130 18 0

To cash pr Lewis Crawford for provisions for said Indians at St. Josephs 7 voucher $5 350 0 0

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To Robert Dickson & Co. disbursements for said Indians at Michillimackinac p. account. No. 6 3483 0 0

Livres 45006 18 0

Hx Curry 1875 5 9

Montreal December 3d 1812.

R. DICKSON

[C 257-p 39.]

RETURN

Return of Prisoners of War, Captured on the Surrender of Detroit Embarked on board His Majesty's Schooner the Lady Prevost at Amherstburg Nov 13th 1812 and who are now at Fort George December 4th 1812

Library of Congress

No Names Rank Corps Remarks 1 Timothy McCoone Private 4 U. S. Regt 2 William Williams do do 3 James Pierce do do 4 Horace Humphrey do do 5 Augustus Bellow do do 6 John Davies do do 7 William Damor do do 8 Capel Colton do do 9 William Cadey do do 10 Nathan Cobbey do do 11 Alexander Morrison do do

Christo. Myers 1 Lt. Col Acting Q. Mr Genl.

1 Lt. Col. Christopher Myers, quartermaster general of the British western army. When Gen. Sir Isaac Brock made the movement on Detroit and captured the city Aug. 16, 1812, he left Col. Myers in command of the Niagara frontier. Myers was wounded at the capture of Ft. George by the Americans, May 27, 1813. His military career was meritorious.

[C 690-p 41.]

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MR. BOILEAU1 TO INTERPRETER ROE

1 See Appendix.

(*War—1812*)

Portage des Sioux Decr 8th 1812

Sir & Friend

Circumstances being so changed since I left you, I know not in what manner to write—Nevertheless I must hide nothing from you, being disapproved by every one at La prairie, but next spring I shall know my friends, and shall revenge the insults you have suffered, without your Country being able to hinder us—do not pay any attention to what may be said to you by the Michilimackinac gentlemen, because we shall have them before the passage is shut—You will see that it will be so—I beg you will tell the Sioux's to remain quiet, and that their people will tell them nearly what is going forwards, for next Spring, without my explaining it to you—Tell all the Nations that frequent La Prairie, that they have

only one way to chuse if they wish for peace, which is what their father desires; but if they are for War, they will have it before their eyes next Spring without mercy But the President does not intend to make War with them, he only pities them, seeing they follow the wishes of a Nation that seeks to ruin them—if the English loved them, they would tell them to remain quiet on their lands, take care of their wives and children and not meddle in the War carrying on between them and the Americans—those that are brave have no need of the assistance of such unfortunate people as they are—Therefore my friends, listen to the talk of those of your people who have been to see Your Great Father—they have seen what is going forward in America—and if you are willing to do well, you will find a father that still loves and wishes to render you happy—I shall say nothing more on that head, as I wait your answer whether you are well disposed or not, which send me immediately, that I may stop the anger of the Americans—You Ouenibagoes and Menomenies, it is time that you should change; if not, you are lost, for I do not believe the other Nations will give you a retreat on their land, unless they mean to become enemies to their father—Therefore drive from you all those wicked Birds, who push you on to do evil, and strive to render you miserable.—And I do not intend to go to La Prairie this winter, I leave Mr. Roe1 to guide you and Mr. Maurice Blandeau, at Fort Madison to observe your Motions, and inform me of them that I may give notice to your father.

Mr Blandeau has charge of their (the Indians) conduct, and is to act according to the Instructions he has received from the Superintendent.—I 197 beg of you Mr. Roe, to give me notice, of all that is going forwards at La Prairie, by Express.—My respects to all Your Family and all our friends—Waiting to hear from you,

I am, Your Most Obedient humble Servant (Signed) N. Boileau

I recommend to your particular care the Sioux and the two Ouinabagoes1 who came with me to Washington—Next spring they will receive the presents they left here.

1 Winnebagoes—resident in Wisconsin.

Mr. Farlane Salutes you—

To Mr. Joseph Roe a true copy (signed) John Lambton Ensn 10th R. N. V. (Royal Veterans.) Battn

Directed to Mr. Joseph Roe Interpreter La Prairie du Chien

[C 678-p 152.]

MR. BOILEAU TO THE GREAT CHIEF OF THE WINEBAGOES

(*War—1812*)

Sioux Portage 10th Decemr 1812

My Friends

As you have had the confidence to suffer two of your Warriors to risk themselves, for the purpose of visiting your Great Father, the President of the United States, Mr. Madison, it was not without risk that I accepted them from the danger they ran in passing thro' the midst of the Ounibagoes (who have the renown of making war on the Americans—Nevertheless, I saved them, in spite of the tempest that appeared to be raised against them, which safety they owe to the President of the United States. I carried them with me as good Indians were willing to do good to their Nation, and hoped to put them in the right way (for they have seen everything that is passing, which way is that of peace, being the safest;) and not interfere in the quarrels between the white people, if they mean to retain their liberty—Take courage! Remain quiet, seeing every Nation is your Enemy and it is only me that supports you,—Moreover, if you behave well, you will, this Spring, know the heart of a good father, who yet tries to draw you 198 out of the error in which your English Trader has thrown you—Open your eyes! listen to your good father's talk! who is yet willing to forgive you the crimes you have committed—If not, there will be an end of your Nation,

and then I shall hold down my head as well as you.—Farewell!—Believe in a friend that still pities you and the other Nations who now wish they had followed my advice, and for which they will reproach themselves for, when too late—Farewell my friends; I shall see you this Spring and I hope I shall find you changed on sentiments.

(Signed) N. Boileau Agent

I beg Mr. Roe will read this talk to the Ounibagoes, Menominees and other Nations who are against the United States.

A true copy1 (Signed) John Lambton Ensn 10th R. V. Battn

1 The authentication of this, and the proceding letter, by Ensign Lambton is to give official credence to the intercepted correspondence.

Directed to the Great Chief of the Ounibagoes. To be read by Mr. Roe, under Agent of the United States

[C 678-p 155.]

MR. GRAY TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*Provincial Marine*)

York 11h Decr 1812

Sir ,

I have the honor to report to your Excellency from Kingston, upon certain points connected with the safety of this Province.

Since my arrival at this place, I have endeavored to acquire such additional information relative to the state and manner of our Marine, as to enable me to submit such ideas for

Your Excellency's consideration, as appears to me best adapted to meet the exigencies of the Service.—

The first consideration, I conceive, is to prevent, if possible, our ships from putting into the enemy's land, till we can procure officers to command, and seamen to man them. This will be no easy task, as the moment the navigation opens, the first object of the enemy will be to destroy or capture our ships.

They feel so confident of possessing the means of effecting — object, that they make no secret of their intentions. To guard against any attempt of this nature, I shall beg leave to recommend that 10 or 12 guns (18s or 12s*) may be sent up immediately, one half to Kingston, and the other half

* 4-8 2-12 from Quebec 2-12 from Montreal.

199 to York; and placed in situations there calculated to guard the shipping laid up, and to protect such as it may be judged expedient to build. I imagine there is round shot enough of the work above stated, to supply the additional guns required.1 A few additional artillerymen would also be necessary, to assist in working the guns, this, as a measure of prevention, is calculated upon the Lowest scale, as I am aware of our limited means. I should not have proposed the measure, if I did not see clearly what we have to expect in a few months.

1 Block house for Prescott Kingston & Chippewa.

In my last letter I had the honor of submitting a measure to your excellency, which, if executed with promptitude, might recover what we have lost.

The more I reflect upon that subject, the more I see grounds for *hope* , as well as *fear* . What I apprehend is the probability there is of the enemys strengthening his Post by temporary means, which he has so much at his command, such as abbatis, and Barricades of wood, of which he has plenty, and axemen and carpenters in abundance. I

know what an active enemy may do in that way, and they have an idea that we may make the attempt. The only alteration I would propose in the means of attack, is some measure to the field artillery, to break down any temporary defences (for such they must be as the season will not admit of any other) which they may in the meantime erect.

The other mode of proceeding should this fail, or not be adopted is to endeavor to secure in part what we have, and build so as to keep pace with the enemy. For this purpose I should submit that a ship Corvette mounting 30-32 Pd Cannonades should be laid down at York, and two vessels of the class of the Royal George built, one at Kingston, and the other at Amherstburg. If such vessels are built of Fir, or in short of such timber as comes first to hand, they may be got ready by the time their guns, stores, and crews arrive in the Spring.

To carry this plan into effect, about 50 or 60 ship carpenters would be required, or if that number could not be found, axemen might be substituted for a part of them, as all idea of neatness in the execution of the work must be given up—Strength and despatch are the objects at present.—

I have called upon the Master builder far an Estimate of the articles required to be sent up for the Hulls; But Captn *Stut* can make that calculation with equal accuracy. The difference of expense in the carriage of stores by land, or water, is not a material object, compared with that which is now at stake.—

200

I shall only add, that at Kingston there is but little protection afford the vessels from the works on shore.—Here there is none.

I have the honor to be Your Excellency's most obedient & humble servant A. Gray Actg Dy Q. M. Genl

His Excellency Sir George Prevost

Library of Congress

[C 728-p 119]

RETURN

Return of Brass & Iron Ordnance Mounted on Travelling & Garrison Carriages &c. at the different Stations in Lower & Upper Canada.

Quebec 15th Decr 1812

Amherstburg Lieut Livingston

3-18 Pounders Brass—2-3 Pounders Brass

5-9 Pounders Iron—4-6 Pounders Iron

3-12 Pounder Iron—

1-18 Pounder Iron

8-18 Pounders Iron

St. Josephs Michilimackinac Milty Conductor Pilmont (Pilmour)

3-6 Pounders Iron

2-9 Pounders Iron

6-½ Pounders Iron

George Glasgow Maj. Gen. R. Arty—

His Excellency Sir George Prevost &c. &c. &c.

[Freer Papers, 1812–13. p 62.]

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TO CAPT. GRAY—WITHOUT SIGNATURE1

1 Although without signature the tone of the letter indicates that it is from Sir George Prevost, commander-in-chief.

(*Provincial Marine*)

Castle St Lewis Quebec 19th Dec 1812

Sir ,

I have recd your letters of the 3rd & 11th inst. containing your report upon the state of the Marine of the Upper Province together with your suggestions upon the most effectual mode of obtaining & preserving a Naval superiority on The Lakes—

I am fully aware both from Your representation & from what I have heard from the quarters of the low & inefficient state of our Naval establishment in the Upper Province & of the necessity of the most vigorous exertions to place it upon the footing & shall enable us with any hope or prospect of success to meet the Enemy in that Qr.

I have therefore made the strongest representations to His Majesty's Govt at home what has been said by Sir John Warren of the necessity of an immediate supply of officers & men for the ships now on the Lakes & those to be built Mr Plunket an experienced officer in the King's Naval Yards has been appointed as superintendant of the Dock Yards & the work to be carried on for the construction of the new vessels & has already proceeded together with 120 shipwrights & Carpenters to Upper Canada, thirty four seamen are also on their way to you & the Asst. Qr Master General has been directed to procure as many more as can be obtained & g. a. for the supply of shipwrights & Carpenters will also be sent to you if required.

With these aids you will be enabled to enter upon the execution of the plan you have submitted & of what I approve of laying down at York a ship—burthen & mounting 30 32 pr Cannds & two vessels of the class of the Royal George the one at Kingston & the other at Amherstburg.

For the security of the Vessels now on Lake Ontario & to guard agt any attempt of the enemy to destroy them when the navigation opens I have directed a long 18 pr & 2 12 to be forwarded from Quebec & two twelves from Montreal as soon as it can be done consistent with the other services going on Mr Clark having this day commanded the transporting for transport of the ordnance stores necessary for the two 18 gun Vessels.

(*Erased* .)—Company of the 49th with a proportion of artillery have been ordered for Kingston & York & their places will be supplied by a company of the Glengarry's & a detacht of artillery from Montreal.2

2 I have also given Instructions for the building of—Blockhouse at Kingston Prescott & Chippewa.

These precautionary measures will I think be sufficient to ensure the safety 202 of our shippg on the Lake until the expected reinforcements of naval officers & men arrive from England or Halifax.

With regard to your plan for the destruction of the Enemy's Naval Force in Sacketts' Harbor it will require some consideration before I can determine whether under the circumstances it would be proper to adopt it.

The object is certainly highly important but whether it can be effected must depend upon the force which I shall have at my disposal at the time when you think it can be accomplished & the number of the Enemy on the Frontiers.

The (*illegible*) of 30 guns you propose building you will of course make an immediate requisition for the supply Iron, anchors stores &c in order that they may be forwarded as soon as they can be procured. I rely upon your best exertion for forwarding this important branch of the public service & I trust that with the assistance we can afford during the Winter & Spring you will be enabled at least to keep the enemy at bay until

[Seven lines illegible.]

Capt. Gray

[C 728-p 125.]

MESSRS. M'GILL, RICHARDSON, AND M'GILLIVRAY1 TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

1 See appendix.

(*Indians*)

Montreal 19th Dec. 1812.

May it please Your Excellency.

The conduct of the Government of the United States of America has long evinced, that in drawing the sword they threw away the Scabbard, although they have been since attempting to delude Great Britain into inactivity, by insincere proposals about peace.

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The Canadas are peculiarly circumstanced being avowed to be the grand object of American ambition, for the accomplishment of which, they have attempted repeated invasions and are still persisting in using every endeavor to call forth as far as possible, their physical strength to over whelm us. witness the very great numerical force embodied in what they pompously term, their Armies of the North West—Center—and North—

To oppose this gigantic assemblage, when compared with our relative numbers and taking into account the great distance of our Mother Country, it seems an imperious duty, to organize and combine every procurable means of defence, whether arising from internal resources, or from allies resident beyond our limits.

From local situation, the Indians are the only allies who can aught avail in the defence of the Canadas—They have the same interest as us, and alike are objects of American subjugation, if not of extirmination—

The Law of self-preservation that first of Laws, were there none other, is sufficient to authorize the employment of such allies, in the most decided & extended manner, in which they can be brought into operation against our common & rancorous foe—

We therefore most respectfully ask permission to propose for Your Excellency's consideration, that important question which the inveterate hostility of the Enemy forces upon Govt. namely—How to call forth & organize the Indians to the greater practicable extent & how to employ them to the best advantage?

Indians must be led by those in whom they confide—Traders being British Subjects who have resided amongst them for a great number of years & know their customs, feelings & habits are those in whom Govt & the Indians can best place a Joint confidence, & it is to be considered that if the Indians are not employed by us, the enemy will use every endeavor to corrupt & turn them against us. The bearer hereof Mr. Robert Dickson1 has been long an extensive Trader among the Western Indians adjoining the Mississippi—he knows them perfectly & by them is beloved—He is a native of Great Britain—a man of capacity and most zealous loyalty, indefatigible activity & indeed an enthusiast in the British & Indian Cause.

1 This sterling recommendation Dickson proved worthy of, as will be seen later.

On this occasion we hesitate not to recommend him to Your Excellency for these reasons as one who is well qualified to give useful information upon the subject & to execute whatsoever Your Excellency may after full consideration of his plans, see fit to employ him in—

To himself we beg leave to refer Your Excellency for particulars.

It will not escape Your Excellency's penetration, that great secrecy on this occasion is requisite, whether his plan be accepted or declined; and 204 that to render Mr. Dickson extensively useful, if employed; it will be indispensible that he be furnished with a commission, & that the commanders at Detroit Amherstburg & Michilimackinac & the Indian Department there, be instructed to promote the plan Your Excellency may see fit to confide to him; and to furnish in aid therefore such goods & supplies from His Majesty's Indian Stores, as also such provisions as you shall consider needful for stimulating these Indians to embark in the joint cause, & for subsisting them, when engaged in it at a distance from their respective hunting grounds—

His ideas are known to us only, and here mean & remain so—

As individuals interested in establishments which from business & intercourse have for a great period of years been connected with the western Indians; and who have much at stake in the issue of the preservation of the Canadas, we have ventured upon addressing Your Excellency, on this occasion in perfect confidence that our motives will be approved of even if our opinions should not be coincided in to their full extent—

These are times when the great utility & practicability of a plan are the primary considerations & the expence a secondary one—

That something decisive respecting the Indians should be done may be considered indispensible, & how to do it we most respectfully submit to Your Excellency's consideration & wisdom.

The Nations of Indians near the Mississippi have hitherto had little or no communication with Government except through British Traders who have individually contributed very materially to preserve alive their attachment to Great Britain.

Under present circumstances it is needful, that Government should have a more direct & pointed influence upon the Western Nations.

We have the honor to subscribe ourselves with profound respect.

Sir Your Excellency's Most obedient & most humble servants James McGill John Richardson W. McGillivray

His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bart. &c. &c. &c.

[C 257-p 31.]

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MR. MONROE1 TO MAJ. GEN. DEARBORN

1 James Monroe, 1758–1831, fifth president of the U. S. At this time was secretary of state; became secretary of war 1814–15; elected president 1816. Was the first president to visit Michigan territory.

(*War—1812*)

Department of State Dec 20th 1812

Sir,

I enclose you a statement of the exchange of Gen. Hull & of the officers therein mentioned, according to the cartel of exchange sent here from Halifax. The British Admiral at that place has acted on this cartel in relation to maritime prisoners by declaring those taken on board the Genevieve, & other vessels to be exchanged & by putting them into service. It is presumed that the British Commander in Canada can have no objections either to the principles of the cartel or to the steps taken in this instance, as the men for whom these officers are exchanged are specially designated. Future exchange will be made on the same principles, & where any are discharged by either government an account kept to be settled in a general exchange. This step has been adopted in consequence of a communication with Mr. Baker who sees no objection to it.

The late Secretary of War requested you to arrange with Genl Prevost, a cartel for the exchange of prisoners & to have Genl. Hull and his officers exchanged by it.

The cartel from Halifax having fixed principles of exchange in conformity, as is understood with the uniform practice of the British Government until it is (*illegible*) immediately receive the sanction of Genl. Prevost.

I have the honor &c &c &c (Signed) James Monroe

To Major General Dearburn &c &c &c

[C 689-p 1.]

MAJ. GEN. DEARBORN TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Head Quarters Albany Dec. 26th 1812

His Excellency Sir George Prevost

Sir

I am instructed by my government to endeavor to effect an arrangement with Your Excellency, for the exchange *of Brigadier General Hull* & I 206 enclose a copy of the Scale or Tarif, that has been mutually agreed on, & a copy of a letter from our Agent at Halifax, relating to the agreement.—

By this it appears, that Admiral Sawyer was to write Your Excellency, on the Subject of Military Prisoners.—If your Excellency consents to the exchange of Brigadier Genl Hull on the principal established in the endorsed Tarif, I presume that your expression of such consent transmitted through my Government to our Agent at Halifax, will be all that will be necessary for effecting the exchange of the General (on the principle agreed on) for such officers or others, as shall be mutually stipulated between the British and American Agents for prisoners.—

I trust Your Excellency has been satisfied, that no intentional or unnecessary delay has occurred in the return of the Company of Voyageurs, taken at St Regis.—

It may be expedient for me to observe, that corps, engaged for a term of years, or during the War, cannot with propriety be considered in future, in any other light, than as Regular Troops & that previous to an exchange it will be necessary to ascertain the term, for which prisoners had been engaged—as none of the regular troops of our Army are engaged for a longer term than five years, or during the present War.—Such corps, as may be trained in Canada for a term of years, or are held to serve during the War, should be exchanged only for our regular troops, or if for others on a stipulated Tarif.—

With high consideration & respect I have the honor to be Your Excellencys Obedient & humble Servant H. Dearborn

[C 690-p 47.]

Account of Exchange of Prisoners

Account of the exchange of William Hull a Brig. Genl.; of Duncan McArthur, James Findly & Lewis Cass, Colonels; of James Miller, John R. Fenwick, Winfield Scott and John Christie Lieut Colonels, of James Taylor Major, of Nathan Heald, John Whistler, Henry B. Brevoort, Josiah Snelling Robert Lucas,1 Abraham F. Hull, Peter Ogilvie, William King, Joel Cook, a first Lieutenant, and of James Dallila and Daniel Hugawnin second Lieutenant; all officers of the army of the United States, made prisoners at Detroit, Queenstown and elsewhere; for the officers, non-commissioned

1 See Appendix.

207 officers, drummers and privates made captive on board His Britannic Majesty's Transport Samuel & Sarah, on the 11th day of July A. D. 1812 by David Porter Esq. Commander of the U. S. Frigate Essex—

Americans British No Rank Volunteers Militia or Regulars. Equivalent to Privates No Rank Volunteers Militia or Regulars Equivalent to Privates 1 Brigr Genl. Regulars 30 3 Lieutenants Regulars 12 3 Colonels Militia 45 9 Sergeants “ 18 4 Lt Cols. Regulars 32 6 Corporals “ 12 1 Major Militia 8 2 Drummers “ 4 10 Captain Regulars 60 138 Privates “ 139 1 1st Lieut. 4 Total 185 2 2d Lieuts. 6 Total 185

Done by the direction of the Secy of State

(Signed) John Graham Ch. Clk. Dept. of State

Department of State 22 Decr. 1812

[C 589-p 6.]

LIST OF OFFICERS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE HONORARY MEDALS AT THE CAPTURE OF DETROIT ON THE 16 AUGT 1812 (*Extract*)

M. Genl Sir Isaac Brock Commanding

Colonel Proctor 41st Comg. district

Lt Col St George Inspg. Fd officer

Capt Muir Comr 41st Regt

The only officers of those corps

Capt. Dixon Roy: En:

Lt. Troughton Reg: Arty

Major Glegg 49: Regt A. de. Camp to the Major Genrl who acted on this occasion as Asst Adgt Genl to the division & head of the staff

[C 683-p 135.]

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DISTRIBUTION OF FORCES

Distribution of the Forces in Upper Canada

Amherstburg & Detroit Royal Artillery Lt. Serjt R & F. 1 1 24 Royal Engineers Capt 1 41st Foot Lt. Col Capts Lts Asst Surgeon 1 2 5 1 Serjts Drumrs R & F. 12 2 256 Royal Nfd. Regt. Capt Serjts Drumrs R & F. 1 4 4 62 St. Josephs & Michilimackinac Royal Artillery Sergt R & F. 1 2 10th Royal Vet. Bat. Capt. Lt. Ens Serjts R. & F. 1. 2. 1 3 64

Militia not included no Return having been received

Adjutant General's Office Quebec 21st Decr 1812

Edwd. Baynes

[Freer papers, 1812–13. p 102.]

MR. DICKSON TO THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

(*Indians*)

In the prosecution of the war, if the active cooperation of the Indian Tribes is required, the subscriber begs leave to suggest the following remarks.

A large Wampum Belt with proper designations & an appropriate speech, encouraging a general and spirited combination, among the different Indian Tribes, to be immediately forwarded.

Chicago and La Baye are the fit places of rendezvous for the Western Indians in the Spring—provisions must be provided at these places, Canoes 209 can be got at La Baye, part of the force to go to York by water, the remainder by land to Detroit if necessary a junction can be effected at Niagara.1

1 This plan to procure reinforcements of Western Indians for service on the Niagara and Lake Ontario frontiers, though energetically pursued failed of perfect accomplishment.

A person must be fully authorized to order from His Majesty's Indian Stores, what may be requisite for the Indians with the knowledge of the officer commanding.

Twenty young men as Interpreters, and officers will be wanted, what ever pay may be allowed them for their services, let the payment be prompt.

A Commission from His Excellency the Commander in Chief, of the nature he chuses to be given to the person who shall command the Western Indians.

Would it not be proper to raise a body of men English & Canadians now in the Indian Country as Rangers to act with the Indians to consist of from one to two Hundred.

One silk Standard & one large medal to be got for each Tribe.

An Express to be sent to Michillimackinac, to order necessaries for the Indians to be forwarded to the portage of the Ouisconsin and Chicago, as early in the Spring as possible.

Should it meet His Excellency the Commander in Chief's approbation the subscriber intends without delay, setting out for the Mississippi by the route of Montreal, Kingston, York, Niagara, Amherstburg, Detroit, St. Josephs on Lake Michigan, Chicago, Rock River. On his way he will dispatch courriers when required, he hopes to reach the Mississippi about the end of February, which will enable him to collect the Indians on the west of that River.

Amable Chevallier,2 an Ottawa Indian, will be wanted for the voyage, he is an intelligente & usefull man.

2 See appendix.

If the services of Capt. Morton at Niagara can be dispensed with it is necessary he should accompany the subscriber as far as Amherstburg.

The Indians will hold out to the Americans that they must retire within the boundary Line, as settled by Wayne's Treaty, else every thing within the line will be destroyed—

The above is submitted, for the consideration of His Excellency the Commander in Chief—by—

his most devoted Most obedient and very humble Servant Robert Dickson

Quebec Dec. 23d 1812.

[C 256-p 226.] 27

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CAMPAIGN OF 1813

SECRETARY FREER TO MAJ. GEN. DE ROTTENBURG

(*Indians*)

Military Secretarys Office Quebec 2nd January 1813.

Sir

The commander of the Forces having received a Memorial from Mr. Robt Dickson a mercantile trader with the Indians in the Western Territory, adjoining His Majestys possessions in Upper Canada, submitting a statement of expenses amounting to £1875. 5. 9 Currency, incurred by him in the purchase of certain articles of provisions and other supplies, which he states to have distributed to the several Tribes of Indians, in the name of Their Great Father The King of England, in consequence of a communication he had received from the late Major General Brock commanding the Forces and administering the Government of Upper Canada.

His Excellency is pleased to direct that a confidential Board, consisting of yourself as President

Members

of Sir John Johnson Bart: Super Genl and Inspt. Genl of Indian Affairs1

1 See Appendix

Isaac W. Clarke Esqr Commr. Genl.

James McGill Esqr

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Wm. McGillivray Esq

John Richardson Esqr

will assemble at Montreal on the first convenient day after the receipt of this letter, for the purpose of inquiring into, and investigating the claim of Mr. Dickson; the circumstances and authority under which he has acted; the effect—the arrangements of this Gentleman appear to have produced with the Indians; what personal advantage has accrued to himself by the transaction in question;—whether the prices at which the articles charged are equitable and fair; what compensation you conceive this gentleman entitled to;—and in what manner you would recommend the same to be made to him.

Upon these several points His Excellency requires you will fully report for his information and consideration.

Mr Dickson has stated to have several Witnesses at Montreal who were present with him at the time the Articles were delivered to the Indians, and from whom, it is presumed, much interesting information, touching the matter before you may be obtained.

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I am also instructed to enclose, for your information and that of the Board, a letter which has been received by the Adjutant General from Captain Glegg, Aid de Camp to the late Major General Brock, inclosing the Copies of a confidential correspondence, which passed between the Commanding General in Upper Canada, and Mr. Dickson, and bearing testimony of the important services rendered to the Public by this Gentleman, in his Influence with the Indians.

While the subject of Mr. Dickson's services among the Indians are under consideration. The Commander of the Forces has desired me to call the attention of the Board to a proposal, which has been received from that Gentleman for further Conciliating and acquiring the services of the Indians of the different Nations in the Western Territory,

should circumstances call for such assistance; upon which proposal herewith enclosed, I am to request you will also report and submit, for His Excellency's determination, such a *project* for employing this Gentleman, as may appear to you expedient, consistent with good faith towards those People, and the preservation of the British Possessions in Upper Canada

I have the honour to be Sir Your most obt & humble servt Noah Freer Mil: Secty

Major Genl. de Rottenberg Commanding at Montreal

[C 257-p 1.]

GEN. DEARBORN TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Head Quarters Albany Jany. 2nd 1813

His Excellency Sir George Prevost

Sir ,

I have the honor to enclose to Your Excellency, a copy of a letter I this day have received from the Honorable James Monroe, Secretary of State, together with a copy of a list of American Prisoners considered as exchanged in conformity with the principles agreed on & put in practice by the British 212 Admiral at Halifax—which practice it is presumed Your Excellency will approve in relation to the exchange as stated in the enclosed Schedule. It is desired by my Government, that your Excellency would be pleased to express your approbation of the system agreed on & of the exchange as stated. I had heretofore been unofficially informed, that the British Soldier who had been captured by one of our armed vessels & sent on parol to Quebec had been exchanged—but this information was

incorrect. Your Excellency will perceive, that as early an answer as can conveniently be forwarded will be desirable.

With high respect and consideration I have the honor to be your Excellencys obedient and humble Servant H. Dearborn

[C 689-p 8]

FROM MR. M'KEE—UNADDRESSED

(*Military Posts*)

Amherstburg 3rd January 1813

Informed by Makons that Lafertie the Silver Smith had a conference with him to-day, & asked him if he could depend upon him in keeping a secret, when he (Makons) answered he believed he could. Lafertie then proceeded to tell him that his Father at Detroit had received a Letter from Lorimier on the Mississippi telling him that he had received two Barrels of Dollars from the French Government to be distributed among the wise and confidential Indians, but more particularly intended for those living near the Lakes. He said if he was wise he would accompany him to that country next summer & that although the distribution might not take place then, it certainly would the following Summer.

T. McKee I. I. A.

[Endorsed:—In Lt. Col Vincents 8th Jany. 1803.]

[C 513-p 6.]

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FROM SECRETARY FREER

(*Indians*)

M. S. Office Quebec 20th* Jany. 1813.

* 2d (?)

To the Hon James McGill John Richardson W. McGillivray Esq

Gentn

Sir George Prevost has directed me to acknowledge the receipt of your Joint letter of the 19th Decr. submitting some hints upon the subject of the Western Indians & recommending Mr. Robert Dickson as a proper to be confided in to preserve a friendly intercourse & good understanding with those Nations. I am at the same time to acquaint you that His Excellency has been pleased to order a confidential Board to assemble at Montreal at which M. Genl. de Rottenburg is to preside for the purpose of investigating certain claims which have been preferred by Mr. Dickson for supplies furnished to the Indians on acct of Govt. & also to submit for His Excellency's consideration a project for employing the gentleman further upon a similar service to that in which he has been engaged during the last summer & to request that you have the goodness to sit as members at that Board, for this purpose you have been named by His Excy to M. G. de Rottenburg.

I have &c. N. F.

[C 257-p 29.]

MR. M'GILL TO SECRETARY FREER

(*Indians*)

Montreal 7 Jany. 1813.

Sir

Yesterday I was honoured with your letter of the 2nd instant which has been communicated to the Hon. John Richardson & William McGillivray Esqr.; who will attend as well as myself the confidential Board, which His Excellency has been pleased to order to assemble at this place, and of which Maj. General de Rottenburg is to be President—But I cannot say when the Board will meet as both Mr. Richardson & Mr. McGillivray are at present members of a Court Marital—

I have the honor to be Sir Your very obedient Servant James Mcgill

Noah Freer Esq. Military Secretary.

[C 257-p 35.]

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MR. GRAY TO SECRETARY FREER

(*Provincial Marine*)

Kingston 11th Jany—1813

Sir ,

I have the honor to enclose a Return of Articles required at Amherstburg to complete the vessel ordered to be built at that Post, and request you will be pleased to order the Stores to be forwarded with as little delay as possible, as the great distance to which they are to be transported require the utmost dispatch in forwarding the articles wanted—

I have enclosed a copy of this requisition to Major Genl De Rottenburg, commanding at Montreal,

and have the honor to be Sir Your most Obedient Humble Servant A. Gray act. D. Q. M. G.

Noah Freer Esqr Military Secretary

21st July 1813

The Commissariat have forwarded the articles contained in the enclosed requisition.

N. Freer

[C 729-p 2.]

GEN. DE ROTTENBURG TO THE MILITARY SECRETARY

(*War—1812*)

Detroit Head Quarters Montreal 12th Jan 1813

Sir ,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th inst. by Captain Findlay covering a Dispatch from M. General Dearborn, which has been forwarded this morning at 8 o'clock.

The Dispatches for Upper Canada transmitted by your letter of the 9th Instant, have been forwarded this day by the regular Post.

I have the honor to be Sir Your obed. Servant Francis De Rottenburg M. General

To The Military Secretary

[C 689-p 5.]

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COLONEL PROCTOR TO MAJOR GENERAL SHEAFFE

(*War—1812*)

Sandwich Jany 13th 1813

Nothing can be more gratifying to me than to find effectual measures taken to ensure the superiority on the Lakes, so requisite to the security of the Country. Every exertion is making and shall be persevered in, as far as depends on me, to attain that object.

The Gun Boats are to be built on the Thames, by which much time and expense will be saved. I want no assistance towards building the Gun Boats. The Labour and Materials I have at hand. It is not so with respect to the ship: however, no time need be lost. An estimate of the Materials is sent, and a saving of time and expense will arise in proportion to the number of shipwrights employed in building Her.

In the rigging of the ship, a naval officer should direct, and Sailors be employed, I do not believe there are either here properly qualified. I have taken it for granted that we are to receive officers and seamen from the only adequate source, the Royal Navy. There are two very important points, which I conceive it requisite to occupy with Block Houses, the expense will be very trifling, the Timber being at hand, and the effect they may produce on our Allies very beneficial; as Calculated to preserve our communication with them, and ensure their Retreat. One Gun only will be requisite in each.

Mature reflection on the *Reading* within my reach had determined me against demanding the Military service of the Inhabitants of the Ceded Territory, I dread the Consequences on their account solely, of the Enemy's entering into the Territory. No Commands nor influence of mine will be of sufficient weight to preserve the Property, and I doubt the lives of most of the Inhabitants, in the event of it. With my inadequate means the Game will be

a difficult one, however I will do my best, and trust that the result may be as favourable as hitherto.

The Indians in Council have formally requested the Aid of such a Corps (Butlers)1 as were attached to, and acted with them, during (as it is called) the Revolutionary War, and that Captain Caldwell whom they well know, and think highly of, may be employed. A Corps of that Description, would be, I am Convinced, of the highest utility, both in restraining, and directing the hostility of the Indians to the proper objects of it. I would propose one Company at first and if found to answer the intended purpose, a second might be added under a Major. It would soon prove a good substitute for Militia, Whose officers here are almost all, as bad as can be, An efficient

1 See appendix.

216 Corps of the Description proposed, I doubt not Could soon be raised in this District. From the Indians I have had many applications for the regular Troops to move and serve immediately with them and which with some difficulty I have been able to evade, since the expedition intended for Fort Wayne, often much to their dissatisfaction. Having the Corps in question, no other would be required to act immediately with them. The Indians are endeavouring to get those Nations which are in the United States, from among the Americans. Their plans are well laid.—The Americans I understand have in considerable force ascended the Illinois in Boats, shot proof, intending to build, or establish themselves halfway up, thence proceed to Chicago, and there establish themselves again. You will perceive their object to be, the Cutting off from us, of the most formidable Indian Nations. Mopock whom we knew here, has Collected a body of Indians to oppose them. Tecumshee I fear has scarcely recovered his health. I have just learnt that the Enemy are at the foot of the Rapids, computed at a thousand men. Two days since a few Indians and Americans encountered each other, when the latter had two killed and some wounded and the former one wounded The Indians contrived to bring off three of the Enemy's Horses. It may be requisite to dislodge the Enemy from their present position, which is in the Territory; and therefore we have no choice nor option, but to employ all and every

description of force in our reach. I am under the necessity of calling out some more of the Militia, but I hope it will be for a short time,

(signed) Henry Proctor Colonel Commg

True Extracts Robert R. Loring, Capt A. D. C.

[C 678-p 25.]

TO MAJ. GEN. DE ROTTENBURG—WITHOUT SIGNATURE

(*Indians*)

Quebec 14 Jany 1813

Sir

The Comr of the Forces has had under his consideration the report of the Confidential Board of which you were President, assembled at Montreal on the 8th Inst. and I have it in command to signify to you His Excellency's approval of its proceedings. The amount of Mr. Dicksons claim will be paid to him and the sum of £300 Currency as a compensation for his exertions 217 & trouble; This Gentleman will receive Sir George Prevost's commission as an agent for the Indians of the Western Nations, & instructions for his proceedings forthwith to that country to carry into effect the objects embraced by the Board, with respect to the appropriate speech recommended to accompany the Wampum Belt the commander of the forces requests it may be prepared by Mr. McGillivray who is very conversant with subjects of this nature, and by his submitting the same to you, His Excellency will leave it to the determination of yourself & that gentleman and will sanction the form of talk you may decide upon as proper without further reference to him

I have &c — — —

P. S. The enclosed letter and instructions for Mr. Dickson are left open for your perusal previous to their being delivered to that gentleman. The despatch for Major Genl Sheaffe is to be conveyed in charge of Mr. Dickson

To Major Genl de Rottenburg Commanding Montreal

[C 257-p 11.]

TO MAJ. GEN. SHEAFFE—WITHOUT SIGNATURE

(*Indians*)

M. S. Office 1 Quebec 14 Jany 1813

1 Military secretary's office.

To M. Genl. Sheaffe Comg in Up: Canada Fort George

Sir

The commander of the Forces having appd a confidential Board of which M. Genl de Rottenburg was President to assemble at Montreal on the 8th Inst: for the purpose of investigating certain Claims preferred by Mr. Robt. Dickson for supplies furnished the Indians of the Western Nations, in consequence of a communication which had been made to him by the late M. Genl Brock; I am directed to acquaint you that in compliance with the recommendation of that Board His Excellency has authorized the payment of the full amount of Mr. Dickson's demands say £1575. 5. 9 curry2 together with the sum of £300 Currency for his past exertions & trouble; I am at 28

2 £1875-5-9 (?)

218 the same time to inform you that His Excellency has been pleased to appoint Mr. Dickson by Comn dated the 1st Jany 1813 an agent for the Indians of the Western

Nations, & I beg leave to refer to the instructions with which that Gentm has been furnished for his guidance as the outline of his Conduct.

Mr. Dickson will set out immediately from Montreal for his destination, & has been desired to report himself to you at Fort George on his way, and receive from you such directions as you may judge expedient to call his attention to, and it is the desire of the Comr of the forces that you will give such orders as may be necessary to the officers of the Indian Dept and others concerned, to afford the requisite assistance to Mr. Dickson to promote the object of the important trust reposed in him.

The Comr of the forces desires I will empress upon your mind the great advantages which may result in the defence of upper Canada, from the timely cooperation of an Indian force, I therefore trust your arrangements with Mr. Dickson will be principally directed to that most desirable object.

Amable Chevalier an ottawa Indian has been appointed to accompany Mr. Dickson as a Lieut & Interpreter, and His Excellency has consented to Capt. Norton proceeding with that Gentn from Niagara as far as Amherstburg and then return, provided you can dispense with his services for the period he would be absent.

I have &c

[C 257-p 13.]

TO MR. DICKSON—WITHOUT SIGNATURE

(*Indians*)

M. S. Office Quebec 14 Jany 1813

To Robt Dickson Esqr Montreal

Sir

The commander of the forces having had under his consideration the proceedings of the Confidential Board of which M Genl de Rottenburg was President, assembled at Montreal on the 8th Inst: to investigate the accounts submitted by you for supplies furnished to the Indians & such other matters as was laid before it. I am directed to acquaint you that His Excellency has been pleased to authorize the payment of your claims in full being £1575, 5. 9 Currency,1 with the sum of £300 cury as a compensation

1 1875-5-9 (?)

219 for your personal exertions and trouble, making together the sum of £2175—5. 9 Cury, which will be paid to you by I. W. Clarke Esqr Asst. Com Genl to whom you will afford such acquittances as will be required by that gentleman.

I have further the pleasure to signify that His Excellency has been pleased to appoint you Agent for the Indians of the Western Nations, and you will receive enclosed a commission as such. I have been directed to notify your appt to the Superintendent Genl of Indian Affairs, to whom you will show the instructions herewith annexed and from whom you will receive such further instructions as may be requisite for your guidance in the execution of the particular and important service entrusted to you.

You are required to report yourself and communicate with M. Genl. Sheaffe at Fort George, on your way to your destination, and will receive from that officer such further directions as he may judge expedient to call your attention to

I am Sir &c

[C 257-p 21.]

Instructions for Robt Dickson Esqr Appointed Agent for the Indians of the Nations to the Westward of Lake Huron

Quebec 14th Jany 1813

Reposing especial trust in your Zeal, loyalty and ability, I have been induced to appoint you to be agent for the Indians of the several Nations to the Westward of Lake Huron, by Commission dated on the 1st Jany 1813. with a salary of £200 per Annum payable through the accounts of the Indian Department and the several allowances of a superintendt together with an allowance of £300 A. H. C per Annum which will be paid you from another source, to cover all traveling and contingent expenses.

It appears to be highly expedient for the benefit of the Public Welfare in this part of H. M. Dominions that as effective an Indian force as practicable should be brought forward next spring from amongst the Western Nations, to be employed when circumstances may require their Aid in the Province of Upper Canada.1 With a view therefore to accomplish this object and to give greater respectability and efficacy to your exertions, you are hereby furnished with a Commission from me, and you are required to proceed without delay upon the Service.

1 The field of Dickson's operations was entirely within the boundaries of the United States, yet Sir George Prevost assumes to style it “His Majesty's Dominions”.

I approve of LaBaye and Chicago being the places of rendezvous for the Indians, where as many of the articles stated in the returns submitted by you to the Confidential Board at Montreal, as can be furnished, will be ordered 220 to be sent as early as possible in the spring from Amherstburg and Michilimackinac. and you have authority to purchase such provisions as may be absolutely necessary for the subsistence of the Indians until the several Articles arrive, as also some Tobacco & Liquor, to be given them as a regale. When Collected You will report the same to the officer Commg in Upper Canada, stating to him the Number of Warriors disposable, and wait instructions for their movements from thence according to the Circumstances of the War.

You have Authority to make such requisitions as may be necessary upon H. M. Indian storekeepers or other proper officers for such goods and provisions, as from time to time shall be Considered needful for the accomplishment of the Object in View, such requisitions being with the Knowledge & Concurrence of the Officer Comg H. M. Forces at the Post where the requisition is made, Instructions to this effect will be given to the proper Officers by Major Genl Sheaffe and Sir John Johnson.

Amable Chevalier the Ottawa Indian will be allowed to accompany you upon your intended excursion and may be considered as a Lieut: & Interpreter and receive pay of 5 s. Currency1 per day. Captain Norton may also proceed with you from Niagara to Amherstburg, and return as soon as possible if Major Genl. Sheaffe can dispense with his services for the period he would be absent.

1 The “currency” referred to was Halifax currency, five shillings to the dollar.

You will be allowed to employ a number of officers, not exceeding Five Who must be men of intelligence and confidence, & a Number of Interpreters well versed in the languages of the Western tribes not exceeding 15—being in all 20.—The Officers will hereafter be furnished with Commissions as Lieutts with Provincial rank and the pay of 6s 6d per day and allowances, The Interpreters will have warrants & pay at the rate of a Dollar a day & allowances. The above numbers of officers and interpreters are mentioned in the Anticipation that upwards of 1000 picked Warriors will be Collected. If less than that number the Officers and interpreters should be in proportion.

During the period of your present employment it is to be understood that you are not to be engaged in any trade whatever, & your appointment is only intended during the war with the United States, unless Governmt should see fit at the peace to prolong it. It is also to be understood that the subordinate appointments are only to continue during the war.

In the policy to be strictly observed, in your conduct towards the different tribes, it is desirable that you should endeavour to conciliate them to act together harmoniously, that you should restrain them by all the means in your power from acts of Cruelty and inhumanity, encouraging in them a 221 disposition to preserve an alliance of friendship with their great father the King of England, by whose special favour they are indulged with his protection, and that the presents and other comforts they now receive flow from his bounty, in his kind consideration to preserve them and their families from the miseries to which they are exposed by an Enemy overrunning their Country.

The Indians in General should be instructed to hold out to all Americans whether in arms or otherwise that they must retire beyond the boundary line fixed by Wayne's treaty1 and that no Americans can be allowed to remain on the Indian side of the line, without the risk of being treated as enemies, except where reserves have been granted by treaties with the Indians, and it is to be clearly understood that the Indians only are to appear as the movers in such proceedings.

1 See appendix.

You will report to me from time to time by the most expeditious route all your proceedings & you will carefully maintain a communication with the officer commg His Majesty's Forces in U. Canada, respecting the success or difficulties which may attend the important service you have undertaken.

(Sigd) George Prevost Com: of the Forces

By His E. Command Noah Freer Mil: Secy

[C 257-p 4.]

TO SIR JOHN JOHNSON—WITHOUT SIGNATURE

(*Indians*)

M. S. Office Quebec 14th Jany 1813.

Sir ,

I am directed to acquaint you that in consequence of the report of the confidential Board of which you were a member assembled at Montreal on the 8th Inst. The Comr of the Forces has been pleased to authorize the payment of the acct of claims preferred by Mr. Dickson viz:—£1875-5-0. curry together with the sum of £300 cury for his past exertions and trouble. I am also to inform you that His Excellency has thought it expedient to appoint Mr. Robert Dickson a temporary Agent for the Indians of the Western Nations & to grant to him a commission as such dated the 1st Jany. 1813 & you will be pleased to direct that this gentleman be borne on 222 the Pay Lists of the Indian Dept. for the same salary as Mr. Elliott the Supt. at Amherstburg £200 cury per annum & the same allowances but in consideration of his appt being only temporary & that he will be employed upon a very extensive & particular service he will be allowed a further sum from another source1 to defray his traveling and incidental expences.

1 Source unmentioned; perhaps is unmentionable. May be the secret service fund—not a bad thing for Mr. R. Dickson.

Mr. Dickson is allowed to employ a certain number of officers & Interpreters in proportion to the Indians he may collect, as stated in his instructions, & I am to request you will point out to that gentleman the mode in which the pay and allowances of these persons when appointed, are to be drawn, & that the same may be obtained without unnecessary delay.

His Excellency has approved of the several articles stated in the annexed Returns marked A & B being supplied from the Indian Magazine in U. Canada & forwarded to the places recommended as early as possible after the navigation opens in the spring & you will be

pleased to take measures for sending the Express from York to Michilimackinac & to direct that the needful preparations may be made for that purpose.

The Wampum Belt the 6 silk Flags & 5 large medals as recommended by the Board were approved by the govr in Chief & and you will cause the same to be supplied.2

2 The intention was to give Dickson a free hand in organizing and bringing forward, from the West, a large force of Indians.

I have &c

[C 257-p 17.]

MR. DICKSON TO SECRETARY FREER

(*Indians*)

Montreal Jan 18th 1813.

Sir ,

I received your Letter, of the 14th Inst. inclosing His Excellency the Commander in Chiefs Instructions to me & also a commission, appointing me agent for the Western Nations.

I am highly gratified, at the expeditious manner in which the business has been transacted.

I have to request you sir, to return my thanks to His Excellency the Commander in Chief for the very distinguished manner with which I have been treated, and assure him that I am fully impressed with a due sense of the very great confidence he has been pleased to repose in me, & which I shall unceasingly make it my duty to deserve.

As directed I have shown my instructions to Sir John Johnson, who has furnished me with the necessary orders to the officers of his Dept.

Library of Congress

I shall attend to what is ordered respecting Major General Sheaffe.

I shall proceed from this to morrow & shall not fail from time to time to make known to His Excellency what events may take place connected with that important object, with which I have the honor to be entrusted.

I am Sir Your most obedient and Very humble servant Robert Dickson

Noah Freer Esq. Mily Secy Quebec

[C 257-p 37]

MR. GRAY TO SECRETARY FREER

(*Provincial Marine*)

Kingston 14th January 1813

Sir ,

I have the honor to enclose a Requisition for Stores wanted to fit out the new Ship Building at Amherstburg, and have to request you will be pleased to give orders for their being forwarded with as little delay as possible, as the Rigging may be preparing while the vessel is building.

I have transmitted a copy of the enclosed Requisition to Major General De Rottenburg, Commanding the District of Montreal.

and have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient Humble Servant A. Gray Actg. D. Q. M. G

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Noah Freer Esqr Military Secretary Quebec

[C 729-p 9.]

ARTICLES TO BE FORWARDED FROM MICHILIMACKINAC ON THE OPENING OF NAVIGATION TO CHICAGO1 IN A BOAT NAVIGATED BY SEVEN MEN AND A CONDUCTOR VIZT:

1 See appendix.

12 pieces Blue strouds2

2 A rough cloth used by the North American Indians—blanketing.

20 pairs 3 pt. Blankets

60 do 2 ½ “ do

15 do 2 “ do

15 do 1½ “ do

3 pcs scarlet cloth

25 do callicoe

4 gross scalpers

60 lbs vermilion

1 gro Box wood combs

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1 gro paper looking glasses

5 pcs Indian ribbon

1 gro Scissors

6 “ Thread

1 M needles

15 Kegs Gunpowder of 50 lb each

2 Cwt. shot

5 do Ball

2 Rolls Twist Tobacco

300 lbs carrot do

A few Rifles

2 M Gun Flints

2 Bales Copper Kettles

1 Gro fire steels

40 Half Axes

60 Captiles

2 gro: Awles

3 do G Irons

5 Kegs spirits

8 doz silk Handfs Black

2000 pr Ear Bobs

150 Calicoe & Cotton shirts

5 Gro Gartering

[C 257-p 43.]

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MR. ASKIN TO MR. CLAUS

(*Indians*)

Michilimackinac 24th January 1813

Dear Sir ,

On the 9th Nov. last, I stated that the time for sending Couriers from this to Lake Superior would be about the middle of this month, but the season having been unfavourable so much so as to prevent the crossing from the Island to the main land impossible, we have been surrounded by floating ice for a length of time past, & its only two days that the crossing has been strong enough, therefore in a few days I will send to that Quarter. As to the different Tribes about the borders of Lake Michigan & this I intend to retard sending to them before I hear from you as well as those of Green Bay Millwahkee Priri du Chien & Sauks village for should they be required at Amherstburg its much nearer to those places than making their circuit. Busbois is the Waynebaggo Interpreter & Dr. Perrin the Sauk

Intr they retd from Detroit in Novr last wt Langlade—as the former young men are good walkers & born in that Country I intend to send them to collect the Tribes they belong to, the moment I hear from you—Those Indians along Lake Huron from Matchidush to La Cloche will be desired to repair to such place you may wish them, thro' Shawgayshe who goes with the Dispatches, for that purpose it will be necessary that you order some wampum to be given to him so that he may make a speech & deliver the same to the different chiefs as he passes on his return to this.1

1 Askin energetically recommended Dickson's plan of attaching the Western Indians to the British cause.

Per this opportunity I transmit to Ass. Sur Cameron the requisition for Stores & stationery for 1814. It is unnecessary I presume to state the reason of its being augmented—The supplies required in time of war must be greater than those of the peace established. The quantity of Guns required (tho' great) appears to me to be insufficient to meet the demands. It is well known that the Indians inhabiting the interior of the country always have the guns of their deceased Relations deposited in their Graves which deprives the rising Generation from benefiting by them & Indians do not by any means take that care of fire arms which the whites do to preserve them—None of the Guns which were forwarded for this by your order last Spring came to hand they were all retained at Amherstburg & Issued to the Indians of that District—The Guns and Riffles sent from the General Store at La Chine last Autumn amounts to 133—which is'nt sufficient to arm those who are destitute of Weapons & unless a supply is sent in the Spring every old shattered fusee that can be found will be put into requisition again. At the capture of this place we found 43 Spanish Fusees in the Indian Store 29 226 which were issued to the Indians & the quality so bad that I firmly believe there isnt ten now in their possession the rest having burst & numbers of them have been wounded in consequence thereof.

Previous to Mr. R. Dicksons leaving this for Lower Canada he applied for a supply of Goods & Ammunition to be sent to the Sauk & Ayanway1 . Indians under the charge

of some person he wished to name & that person to make the distribution in the two Villages, the amount of the expenses & goods to be sent estimated by him were from £800 to £1000 Hx. Curry, but the Commanding Officer being apprehensive that he wasn't authorized to depart from the established rules declined to acquiesce to Mr. D. proposal and for my part I could not interfere as the command Officer was the person who Mr D. had applied to & who had martial Law proclaimed some time previous to that period. It appears to me that Mr Dickson was much displeased as his wishes were not complied with. We haven't had any News or Intelligence whatever from Green Bay or any place else & have been shut up from every communication since Novr last & am

1 “Iowa” is meant.

Dear Sir Your most obedt very huml Servt. (signed) Jno. Askin

The Honorable William Claus Esq. Depy. Supt. Gen. I. Affairs Fort George

[M. G. XI.]

COLONEL PROCTER2 TO MAJOR EVANS

2 Proctor's first report of the massacre at the River Raisin.

(*War—1812*)

Sandwich Jany 24th 1813.

My Dear Major

Tho: much occupied I shall take a few minutes to acquaint you, that on the 19th Inst. at 2 A. M. I was informed that the Enemy were in complete Possession of the settlement at the River Raisin; and that on the 22d Inst. at Break of Day I attacked him with all the Eorces I could collect, The result of which is that Br General Winchester, his surviving officers, and

upwards of four hundred men are Prisoners, the Remainder (I believe) about the same number being killed by the Indians in their Flight. I am sorry to say that our loss has been, for our number, considerable. We had no time to lose for Mr. Harrison is on the advance, a week's delay would 227 have lost us everything. Perhaps this specimen of what they are to expect in the Territory may deter them from making another attempt soon. The Troops, Marine & Militia displayed great Bravery as did also the Indians. The officers did their duty well, It would be scarcely just to mention Individuals, Colonel St George received four wounds whilst acting very gallantly. Lieut: Kerr N. F. L is I fear mortally wounded. I have not time for further particulars, Believe me with Regard & Esteem

Ever Yours Henry Proctor

Addressed Major Evans &c &c Fort George

[C 678-p, 23]

COLONEL PROCTER1 TO MAJ. GEN. SHEAFFE

1 Proctor's second report, more in detail, with returns of prisoners, etc., attached.

(*War—1812*)

Sandwich Jany 25th 1813

My Dear General

In my last Dispatch I acquainted you, that, the Enemy was in the Michigan Territory and marching upon Detroit. I therefore deemed it requisite, that he should be attacked without Delay, and, with all and *every Description* of Force, within my Reach. Early in the morning of the 19th Instant, I was informed of his being in Possession of Frenchtown, on the River Raisin, 26 miles from Detroit, after experiencing every resistance that Major Reynolds of the Essex Militia had it in his power to make, with a three Pounder well served and

directed by Bombadier Kitson of the Royal Artillery, and the Militia men, whom he had well trained to the use of it. The Retreat of the Gun was covered by a brave band of Indians who made the enemy pay dearly for what he obtained, The Indians fell back 18 miles to Brown's Town the settlement of the brave Wyndots where I directed my force to assemble. On the 21st Inst I advanced twelve miles to Swan Creek whence we marched to the Enemy, and attacked him at Break of Day on the 22d Instant and after experiencing, for our numbers, a considerable Loss, about half of the Enemy's Force posted in Houses and Inclosures and which in dread of falling into the hands of the Indians, they most obstinately defended at last surrendered at Discretion. The other part of their force in attempting to return whence they came, were I believe, all, or perhaps, 228 excepting a very Few, killed by the Indians. Brigadier General Winchester, was taken in the Pursuit by the Wyandot chief Roundhead. He was cut off from those who were posted,1 and whom he afterwards surrendered. I had much difficulty in bringing the Indians to consent to the sparing of their Lives.2 You will perceive that I have lost no time, indeed there was none to spare; as they would have been joined by Mr. Harrison in a few days, and the People of Detroit had already began to show themselves. The Troops, the Marine, and Militia displayed great Bravery, all behaved well, Where so much Zeal and spirit was displayed by all, it would be unjust to attempt to particularize, I shall only venture to mention some of the wounded. L. Colonel St. George who received four wounds in a gallant attempt to occupy a Building favourably situated for the Enemy's Annoyance. Lieut. Kerr of the Royal N. F. L. Regt. who, I fear is very dangerously wounded.3 The Zeal and Courage of the Indian Department were never more conspicuous than on this occasion. The Indian Warriors displayed their usual courage. I am much indebted to the different Departments, The Troops &c. having been well, and timely supplied, with every requisite, the District can afford. We feel the Insufficiency of surgical assistance. If the Indians had not appeared quite so soon, in the Enemys Rear, which detered them fm quitting their Fastness, scarcely a man could have escaped Death.4 I send my A. D. C Lieut McLean5 with this Despatch, he will be able to answer any Question respecting the affair of Frenchtown; that you may be desirous of asking; or concerning our situation here, generally. I have

decided to the best of my Judgment respecting the Prisoners, which is to send them by the River Thames to be passed over on Your Frontier, The reasons for not sending them back, the Route by which they came are so obvious, that I shall not, except required, obtrude them on you, Indeed, I see no option, or Arrangement that could be made but the one directed. I fortunately have not been deprived of the services of Lieut. Troughton of the Royal Artillery, and acting in the Q. M. Gl Department tho: he was wounded. I am indebted much to his Zeal & unwearied exertions, I could wish his continuance in the Q. M. Gl Department, were it not unjust to particularize any Corps, where all did their utmost I would mention the Zeal and Courage of the Royal Artillery. Each officer is deserving of being named, could I do it within the compass of a dispatch. I enclose a List of the killed and wounded. I lament there having been so many of Both, but of the latter a large Proportion will Return to duty and most of them before long. Before

1 On the River.

2 Of these of the wounded.

3 Since dead.

4 See appendix.

5 Actg Bd Major.

229 this Reduction of my force, I had too few for the Defence of this Frontier, may I not hope, that you will send me, a company of the 41st Regt. You are aware of the insufficiency of my Means. I also send a return of the Arms, Ammunition &c taken on the 22d Instant. Likewise of the Prisoners, who you will perceive to be equal to my utmost Force, exclusive of the Indians, who tho' a powerful aid is an uncertain one, being dependent on success, and which would have strongly appeared had I failed on the 22d Instant, nor could I have been sure of the Militia in the event of any Disaster. I have not heard it officially, but, I believe that a party of the Enemy, one hundred bringing 500 hogs for Gen: Winchester's Force has been completely cut off. I shall defer until the next

opportunity, which shall be in a few days, saying anything more, having already detained Lieut McLean too Long, of whose courage and exertions displayed on the 22d Inst. I would speak, did I think it just to attempt particularizing any one, especially when I may be supposed partial

I remain My Dear General faithfully Yours Henry Proctor Colonel Comdg

Major General Sheaffe Fort George

[C 678-p 31.]

Return of Prisoners1 taken after the Action at Riviere au Raisin on the 22d January 1813

1 Among the prisoners was private Atherton of the Kentucky volunteers, author of a vivid narrative of his experiences. Atherton says that on account of the cold, Winchester had no pickets out, and the army was taken by surprise.

Brigadier generals 1

Colonels 1

Majors 1

Captains 9

Lieutenants 6

Ensigns 10

Brigade Majors 1

Adjutants 1

Quarter Masters 1

Surgeons 2

Sergeants 27

Rank & File 435

Total 495

230

N. B. The Indians have brought in and delivered up several prisoners since the above return was taken, they continue to do so this morning, so that this Return is not perfectly correct nor can a correct one be procured until they arrive at Sandwich

(Signed) Felix Troughton Lt. R. A. Actg Dy Ass: Qr. M Genl

Colonel Proctor & & &

[C 678-p 46.]

Amherstburg 25th January 1813

Return of Arms Ammunition &c taken from the Enemy at River au Raisin on the 22d Instant

Serviceable with Bayonets 369 Total Muskets Repairable without " 28 397 Serviceable with Belts 292 Pouches 349 Repairable without do 57 Musket Ball Serviceable 900 1400 Cartridges Unserviceable 500 Swords with Scabbards 10 10

(Signed) Samuel Wood Clerk of Ordce Stores F. Train Dept.

(Signed) Felix Troughton Lieut Commg Ryl Artillery

N. B. There was much Ammunition and many Muskets, Rifles, swords and pistols which it was politic to allow the Indians to take away with them1

1 Naturally the Indians helped themselves, being unrestrained.

[C 678-p 47.]

BRIG. GEN. WINCHESTER TO COL. PROCTER

(*War—1812*)

Extract of a letter from Brigadier General Winchester, dated Sandwich Janry 29th 1813 to Colonel Procter

You will please to be assured, Sir, that I feel a high sense of Gratitude, for the polite attention shown to myself, as well as for the humanity and kindness, with which you have caused the Prisoners to be treated, who fell into your hands on the 22d instant—

True Extract Robert R. Loring A. D. C. Captn

[C 678-p 59.]

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CAPTAIN ROBERTS TO SECRETARY FREER

(*Royal Veteran Battallion*)

Montreal 29 January 1813

Sir .

If the multiplicity of your engagements will admit of your taking into consideration those memorandums I had the honor to present to you when you were last in Montreal, and which are comprized under the following heads

1st The recommendation of Mr. Askin the store keeper in the Indian Department at Mackinac.—

2nd The Application of the officers at Mackinac to be allowed something in lieu of Barrel Bulk.

3rd My own application for eighteen Months command money that was due to me when I left the Post of M: Mackinac, and also for the expense unavoidably incurred in my passage to this place & I should deem it a great favour to be made acquainted with your Excy determination on these subjects.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient & humbl Servant Charles Roberts Captain 10. V. B.

Noah Freer Esq.

[C 789-p 127.]

LIEUT. COL. MYERS TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Fort George 30th January 1813

Sir ,

A severe attack of illness under which Major General Sheaffe at present labours, prevents him from writing to you, and therefore he has directed me to transmit to Your Excellency

a Letter No 1,1 received by him last night from Colonel Proctor together with its several enclosures marked No. 2, 3 and 4. The Major General has at the same time commanded me to convey to Your Excellency his sincere congratulations upon the success that has attended His Majestys arms, and to add his tribute of praise to the

1 No. 1 25th January. No. 2 Prisoners of War. No. 3 Captured arms and Accoutrements. No. 4 British Killed & Wounded.

232 promptitude and decision of Colonel Procter on this occasion, and to the gallant conduct of the Troops under his command.

Upon the arrival of the Prisoners of War at this place, they will be disposed of agreeably to the Treaty entered into by Your Excellency with General Dearborn on the 12th of November last.

The Light Infantry Company of the 41st Regiment will be forthwith pushed on to Amherstburg.

Major General Sheaffe has desired me to Inform Your Excellency that as Major of Brigade Evans was to proceed to his Regiment on his promotion and which is daily looked for, he has judged it expedient to commit this Despatch to his care, to be by him delivered to Your Excellency, and as he has had full communication with Lieut McLean A. D. C. to Colonel Procter, he will be liable to give Your Excellency every further information relating to the Colonels command.

Captain Glegg will be ordered to perform the Duty of Major of Brigade vice Evans as is understood to be Your Excellencys desire

I have the honor to be Sir Your Most Obedient Humble Servant Christo Myers Lt Col cting Q. M. G.

His Excellency Lieut General Sir George Prevost Bart

&c &c &c

[C 678-p 49.]

COL. PROCTER TO COL. BAYNES

(*War—1812*)

Sandwich 1 January 31st 1813

1 See appendix.

Sir

I was not, until lately, made acquainted with the Decision of his Excellency the Commander of the Forces respecting Lieut. Cartwright 41st Regt communicated in your Letter, to the late Major General Brock, of the 24th of Sept. 1812, when, I immediately wrote to the Officer in Command of that Portion of the Corps which is quartered on the Niagara Line, but have not yet received any Answer. The Length of Time which has elapsed since you wrote, has indused me, to acquaint you, that there has not been on my Part any Inattention to the Subject of your Letter.

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I beg Leave respectfully to submit to the Consideration of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces, the Expediency of having in this District, an officer in your Department. From the want of such Aid, I am often oppressed with Business, and at times, rather embarrassed as there is not, in this District any Register of orders superior to the Order Book of a Company, of which, or Detachments, the small Force in it is composed had it been conceived that the Service would have admitted of my corps being here, the Service would have been carried on to my Satisfaction, and with the Order and Regularity I have been accustomed to, and also with advantage to the Regiment itself. Having the

regimental I should not have felt so much the Insufficiency of the General Staff. I intreat that more Aid may be afforded me, in the Duties I have to perform. I shall not speak of the Insufficiency of my Force, being well aware that it will not escape His Excellencys notice. I hope that my Application may not be thought too direct, which is merely to save Time, and will also be submitted through Major General Sheaffe.1 I have just learn't that Major General Harrison is at the Rapids of the Miamis, and am impelled, by that circumstance to send you No 1. Returns by which my present State may be exactly Known. The Indian Aid tho' a strong one, is entirely dependant on Success, any Reverse would instantly disperse them.2 The same may in Truth be said of the Militia. On my Arrival here, in July last, I witnessed the Powerfull Effects of Hope and Fear on Both. Besides, our Influence over the Indians is just in Proportion to his Opinion of our Strength, which unfortunately has been ever small. Nor is he restrainable, but in the same Proportion. I think it incumbent on me, to offer respectfully my decided opinion that a considerable encrease to my Force, a Regiment, is requisite and soon, to ensure the safety of the Marine, and the District. I hope I shall not be thought to obtrude my Opinion.

1 Feby 1st 1813.

2 The truth of this observation has been attested many times in Indian campaigns.

I have the honour to be Sir Your most obedient Humble Servant Henry Procter Colonel Comg.

Colonel Baynes A. G. Quebec

[C 678-p 56.]

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CHIEF JUSTICE WOODWARD TO HON. JAMES MONROE

(*War—1812*)

Michigan January 31st, 1813

Sir

I had the honor to transmit to you, some days ago, simply under an envelope, some information for the Friends of Messrs Baker and McCarthy; and I now beg leave to transmit communications of a similar nature for twelve other families.

In the Battle of " *La Riviere aux Raisins* " of the 22d of this month, and which terminated in a complete victory on the part of the British Commander, the American General evidently committed four Military errors.

First, his troops were posted on the left bank of the River Raisin; when they should, unquestionably, have been on the Right.

Second, They were posted at the extremity of a public road; when, if posted on the left bank at all, they should have been in a situation, that either fences or woods might have presented some obstructions to the approach of Cannon.

Third, He slept a mile and a half from his men; and the next to him in command being absent, they, in fact, had no commander.

Fourth, He received intelligence of the march of the attacking army in the evening; but would not credit it.

The operations of the British Commander are marked with the same minute correctness of Judgment in this Instance, and the same boldness of Conception and execution which distinguished, in the former instance, his illustrious predecessor General Brock. It is a military movement of equal, and in fact, of greater splendour. His Allies however will tarnish his Military Laurels; and plant a thorn in his Heart, “But that I am” &c Hamlet Act 2 Scene 4.1

1 See appendix.

The American Soldiers fought like Lions. The Enemy do justice to their intrepid Bravery; and being the first instance they have felt in this Quarter of American spirit, it is not without its impression. Whatever credit is however given to the bravery of the men, the superiority of Generalship beyond all doubt or Question belongs to the British commanders.

If General Winchester advanced without the approbation of the Commanding General there was still a greater and more military error

I have the honor to be Sir Respectfully Your obedient Servant Signed) A B Woodward

A true copy A. H. McLean A. D. C.

The Honble James Monroe Secretary of State

[C 678-p 66.]

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GENERAL HARRISON TO DR. MCKEEHAN1

1 See Dr. McKeehan's account of his misfortunes in the letter p. 306.

(*War—1812*)

Head Quarters 31st Jany 1813

Sir

You will proceed with the two men who are to attend you, to the River Raisin, bearing a flag of Truce. The object of your Trip, is to ascertain the situation of the wounded which were left as it is said at that place. If a British officer should be there, you will deliver him the letter with which you are charged, and proceed to give such assistance to the sick, as

they may need and you be able to procure. You are furnished with one hundred Dollars in Gold, for the purpose. Should there be no British officer on the River Raisin, you will proceed towards Malden, until you meet with one, unless there should be great danger from the Indians. Indeed it is my wish that you should go on to Malden, if you are permitted to do so, to bring Dispatches from General Winchester, or the Senior officer remaining with our Prisoners.

If your professional services are wanted with the wounded you will remain with them, and send back the two men to bring me an account of your proceedings.

I am Respectfully Your obedt Servant (Signed) Wm Henry Harrison

Dr. McKechan. (McKeehan.) True Copy Robert R Loring A. D. C

[C 678-p 60.]

COLONEL PROCTER TO MAJ. GEN. SHEAFFE

(*War—1812*)

Sandwich Feby 1st 1813

I have hastened off for many reasons the General and the other Prisoners, excepting the wounded and a few others whom the Indians are bringing in. I shall also be under the necessity of sending several from that Depot of Treachery, Detroit. I shall endeavour to send correct Returns (nominal) of both, with my recommendation of the Disposal of the latter. My opinion of the Enemy is not more favourable than it was, from what I have seen and heard of them. They were Armed with knives and Tomahawks, and some of them used them. They fired at the wounded as they lay on the ground, 236 themselves behind enclosures, and in buildings. Every Art, every means have been employed to prejudice and influence these misguided People against us, There have been some instances I am sorry to say of Indian barbarity, but the example was set by the Enemy,1 and they came

to seek them, I know we shall be vilified for the truth is not in them. I have not any thing to accuse myself of. I Enclose you an Extract of a letter to me, from General Winchester, just previous to his departure. I also Enclose Returns, by which you will perceive what my force was when I attacked the Enemy, and what it is at present. If you do not send me as many as will replace those who are in consequence of the affair of the 22d unfit for service, I mean of the 41st Regt, very serious Consequences may follow the Enemy's advance, which should be expected, and immediately. We shall do our duty, but that will not save the Country, tho: it may our Credit. I have been given to understand that General Harrison is at the foot of the Rapids, so that no time should be lost, in moving on, if they should not be already on the way here, whatever Assistance can be afforded.

1 Old proverb: “He who excuses—accuses.” Hereby Proctor would forestall the effect of revelations of the massacre that time is to bring forth.

I fear I shall not be enabled, without delaying the Express too long, to send you a more correct Return of the Prisoners, than I already have done. You shall receive it however, before the Prisoners can reach you.

Feby 2d

General Harrison has sent, as a flag of truce, the Person, to whom the enclosed order is directed. You will perceive his object to be the gaining of information. I shall keep the Gentleman, and send some Person to him, He is at the Foot of the Rapids, and we may expect him, with more thousands than I can find hundreds. The Indian Force is a strong Aid when there is a probability of success, but any reverse, would quickly disperse it, our Militia Force depends also on success, in a great measure. I have had some little experience of both. You will see how much in need I am of officers, Tho' the wounds are in general not dangerous, they are however severe ones. I shall say no more. My situation is well Known to you, and I trust you will afford me speedy Aid.

(signed) Henry Proctor Col Comdg

To Major Genl Sheaffe &c &c &c

[C 678-p 61.]

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Return of the Whole of the Troops (Regulars, Militia, Marine & Indian Department) who were engaged in the action at Frenchtown on the River Raisin on the 22nd of January 1813 with the number of killed & wounded.

In action Killed Wounded Regiments and Departments. Regulars and Militia Marine Dp- Colonels Lieut: Cols Majors Captains Subalterns Ass: Surgion Clerk of Stores Serjeants Drummers Rank & File Depy Qr Mr Gen: Militia Depy Ass: Comg Genl Garrison Mate Superintendent I. A. Capt I. Dept: Ass: Store keeper I. D. Interpreters Licutenants Midshipmen Boatswains Gunners Seamen Serjeants Privates Seamen Total Lieut Colonls Captains Subalterns Serjeants Corporals Bombardiers Gunners Privates Seamen Indian Interpreters Total Staff 1 1 1 1 1 Royal Artillery 1 1 21 1 1 2 1 1 1 5 8 10 Batt: Royl Veterans 4 2 2 41st Regiment 1 1 4 1 8 1 228 15 15 1 1 3 2 91 98 Royal Newfoundland 1 2 4 1 53 1 1 1 1 3 13 18 Marine Department 2 2 1 1 22 1 1 3 1 12 16 1st Essex Militia 1 5 6 4 100 2 2 1 2 2 7 12 2nd Essex Militia 3 6 7 80 3 3 1 3 4 Indian Department 1 1 1 16 2 2 Commissariat 1 Field Train 1 Royal Engineers 1 Total 1 1 1 11 19 1 1 24 2 486 1 1 1 1 1 1 16 2 2 1 1 22 1 22 1 24 1 2 9 6 6 1 6 116 12 2 161

Henry Proctor Colonel Comg

[C 678-p 51.]

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Return of Killed and Wounded in the Action at Riviere au Raisin 22d Jany 1813

Killed Wounded Regiments Sergts Corpls Gunners Privates Seamen Total Lt. Cols Captains Lieuts Ensigns Midshipmen Serjeants Corporals Gunners Privates Seamen Bombardiers Total Remarks Royal Artillery 1 1 2 1 1 5 1 8 Lieut: Troughton 10 Rl Vetn Battn 2 2 41 Regiment 15 15 1 1 3 1 91 97 Captain Talton & Lt Clemow Royal N fundld Regt 1 1 1 1 3 13 18 Ensign Kerr Marine Departments 1 1 2 1 1 12 16 Lieut Rolette &

Lieut Irwin—Midshipman Richardson 1st Essex Militia 2 2 1 2 2 7 12 Captain Mills, Lieut McCormic & Gordon 2d " " 3 3 1 3 4 Claud Garvin Staff 1 1 Colonel St George Total 1 1 21 1 24 1 2 6 2 1 6 5 6 116 12 1 158

Felix Troughton Lieut. Rl Ar Actg Depy Ass: Qr Mr Genl

Colonel Proctor &c &c &c Commanding

[C 678-p 48.]

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Officers Engaged in the Action

Col: Proctor 41st Regt commanding

Staff

Lt. Col. T. B. St George, I. F. O. Militia

Captain Dickson Royal Engineers—acting on the staff

Lieut Allan H. McLean 41st Regt—Aide de Camp to Col Proctor

Lieut Col. Francis Baby Dy. Qr. M. Genl of Militia

Robt Reynolds Esqr Dy Asst Commissary General

Robert Richardson Garrison mate1

1 See appendix.

Mr. Samuel Wood Field Train Deptmt

Matthew Elliott Esqr Superintendent Indian Dept

Captain Caldwell Indian Department

William Jones Esqr store keeper Ind. Dept:

Royal Artillery

Lieut Felix Troughton

41st Regt

Capt Joseph Tallan

Lieut John W. Clemow

“ Benoit Bender

“ Harris Hailes

“ William Watso

Royal Newfoundland

Captain Robt Mockler

Lieut John Garden

Ensign Thos Kerr

Provincial Marine

Lieut Frederick Rolette

“ Lieut Robt Irvine

Midm Robert Richardson

“ Thos Barwis

1st Essex Militia

Major Reynolds

Capt. Caldwell

“ Maisonville

“ Buchannon

“ Wm Elliott

“ Wm Mills

Lieut Jas Gordon

“ James Lytle

“ Nicholas Lytle

“ Thos Caldwell

“ Fras Caldwell

2nd Essex Militia

Capt. Alexis Maisonville

“ Julien Labut

“ William Smith

Lieut Joseph Warent

Dedine Batishou

Ensign Bryce Woods

“ Joseph Eberts

“ Claude Garvin

Lieut: Alex Pringle Paymr

Volunteers

41st Regiment

Mr. Henry Proctor

Mr. John Richardson

attached to the Artillery

M. Paterson

M. Pastorus

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Indian Interpreters

Edward Sayer

Saml Sander's (Saunders)

Library of Congress

Matthew Elliott Junr

Barnett Lyons

George Ruppe

William Gruett

Thomas Guthrie

Jacob Gruserat

George Bluejacket, (under Little Turtle at Fallen Timbers, 1794).

F. H. Cadotte

I. B Sauscrainte (Jean Baptiste Sauscrainte).

Joseph Drouillard

Francois Roi

I. B. Askin (J. B. Askin.)

Peter Schwartz

Jno Wilson

J. B. Glegg Capt. Acts B. M

A true copy J. B. G

[C 678-p 19.]

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Library of Congress

Officers wounded

Lieut Col; Thos. B St George I. F. O Militia

Lieut Troughton R. Atty.

41st Regt.

Capt. Tallan

Lieut Clemow

Ensg. Kerr, R. Newfoundland (since dead)

Lieut Rolette

Pro. Marine

Lt. Irvine

Midshipn. Richardson

1st Essex Militia

Capt. Mills

Lt. McCormick

Lt. J. Gordon

Ensn. Garvin 2d Essex Militia

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RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY CERTAIN RESIDENTS OF DETROIT, CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES

Whereas—It hath been signified to us the undersigned, Citizens of the United States, resident at Detroit in the Territory of Michigan by Colonel Henry Proctor the British Commanding Officer, that it is his will and pleasure we should depart from, and leave the said Territory, and he so orders and directs it, leaving behind at the same time as we necessarily must do, our dearest relatives exposed to all the casualties and evils incident to a state of war, and our property at the mercy of the marauding Savage.—

Resolved, therefore, that we consider the said order of the said Colonel Henry Proctor, as a flagrant and gross violation of the Third Article of the Capitulation made and concluded at Detroit on the 16th day of August last, and by reason whereof this place was surrendered to the British Flag"—

Resolved, Secondly, that it is a duty we owe to ourselves and to our Country to resist manfully and spiritedly, by all the powers of reason and argument, every unwarrantable attempt upon our personal rights that are not strictly compatable with the Articles of the capitulation"—

And whereas we entertain a very sensible and thorough conviction that a Military officer by an unjustifiable and wanton invasion of the Private rights of an individual may not only incur the displeasure of his own Government, but will lay himself personally responsible in the individual injured.— Resolved, therefore thirdly that for every violation of our Rights and privileges attended with an injury to our persons or Property we will make a solemn appeal in the dernier resort to the umpire of the Law."

Resolved.—Fourthly that we entertain a high sense of the Honor of a Military Parole, and the virtuous and delicate use that ought to be made of it. as likewise the necessity and the Propriety of a strict and exemplary neutrality, as long as we remain under the British Flag

and are protected in our persons and property agreeable to the true spirit and Letter of the Articles of Capitulation.

Resolved.—Fifthly—that if there are any amongst us whose conduct and behaviour does not strictly comport with the spirit and meaning of the preceding resolution, they ought not to be screened from punishment, but that it is our duty to assist in exposing them to the just animadversion and censure of their own improper conduct, And whereas we entertain a high sense of the manly, dignified and spirited conduct of Augustus B. Woodward, whose services have heretofore been so pre-eminently useful to the inhabitants.—Resolved—therefore—Sixthly that he be presented with these resolutions, with a request to lay them before the said Colonel Henry Proctor, 31 242 and to use all Lawfull and honorable entreaty with him to obtain a revocation of his afore said order, so diametrically opposed to the aforesaid Third Article of the Capitulation, and so manifestly injurious at this particular season of the Year to our Persons & property."

Dated Detroit 1st February 1813. Signed by twenty nine persons

A true copy A. H. McLean A. D. C.

[C 678-p 64]

COLONEL PROCTOR TO MAJ. GEN. SHEAFFE

(*War—1812*)

Sandwich Febuary 4th 1813

My Dear General

The advance of General Winchesters Force gave an opportunity to a Part of the Inhabitants of the Michigan Territory to display their hostile Sentiments towards our Government. A number of them were prepared, I have reason to believe, in the Event of

my having failed in my attack on the Enemy to rise and posses themselves of Fort Detroit, in which at the time, I could afford a Garrison of Militia only: but disappointed in that expectation and acquiring confidence from the approach of General Harrison, they held meetings, which were productive of the indecent Resolutions dated Feb. 1st 1813, and of the Conditions for a convention, insolently proposed in a Letter to me, from Chief Justice Woodward. Of the Impropriety of this Man's conduct, I certainly cannot entertain a Doubt. He is an artfull designing, & Ambitious Man, & his only objects have been to ingratiate himself, with his own Government, & to court popularity. In such a man I could not place Confidence,1 and Associated with him in the Administration of the Government it, was impossible for that Government to possess sufficient Energy to Controul such men. To preserve the Territory therefore I found myself under the absolute necessity of declaring Martial Law therein; I have also found it necessary to order some of the more suspicious and turbulent characters to quit the Territory, among whom are some British subjects. They will proceed to Fort George under an Escort and there will be at your disposal, tho: I shall take upon me to make some remarks respecting some of them. After having rid the Territory of these men, as there are a considerable number of the Inhabitants who are or were British subjects who were greatly Controuled in their Actions by the Persons sent off, it is my intention

1 See appendix.

243 to bring over as many of the Inhabitants as I can to take the oath of Allegiance to His Majesty, & if I find they can be trusted, Arm them in Defence of the Territory. As the majority of the Inhabitants are Canadians, and as it is so much for their own Interest to be on good terms with the Indians I have hopes of succeeding in procuring a considerable number to join us. And in respect to those who are Confirmed Citizens of the U. S. & whom I have not throught proper to order away, I shall call on them to take an oath of strict neutrality during the War.—The most of those sent away, were by the Capitulation for the surrender of Detroit made Prisoners of War, as they had joined the Army; and as such are I conceive liable to be sent away. What I have done has been under the firm convinction

that it was not only for the best, but absolutely necessary; I have therefore Reasons to Hope that my Conduct will be fully approved of.

I remain My Dear General faithfully Yours Henry Proctor Commanding

Major General Sheaffe &c &c Fort George

[C 678-p 70.]

MAJ. GEN. SHEAFFE TO COL. BAYNES

(*War—1812*)

Fort George , 9th Febry, 1813

My Dear Colonel ,

I send you extracts from a letter I received last night from Colonel Proctor—You will see that he was very anxious for a reinforcement which I hope arrived very few days after he wrote;—from the information of those who met it on the route I have reason to believe that it reached its destination on the 6th or at the latest on the 7th. I sent him all his Light company—and the addition of Artillery men will no doubt be highly acceptable to him—I feel no doubt of Sir George's approbation of the movement;—some barrack bedding accompanied them, with some supplies for the militia. The Provincial Legislature is summoned to assemble on the 25th Inst—before which time I hope to be quite restored to health—though my recovery does not keep pace either with my wishes or expectations—I am advised to abstain as much as possible from business—but business, especially at such a time, must be done—you may discover my weakness in my writing. I cannot yet enter on the task of a long despatch to Sir George. I 244 am establishing the system recommended for the payment of the militia—I hope to learn soon how these things are done below I propose issuing to the General Staff of the Militia, and to officers of the Flank companies that were out during the last campaign 200 days Bat and Forage if Sir George

Prevost approve of it; I understand from a letter of yours that a similar issue was made below. I have also to request His Excellency's authority for forming a corps of Artillery Drivers on terms like those on which there is now one raising in the Lower Province, and also for the purchase of an additional number of horses—Captain Glegg has already written by my direction on these subjects, and has transmitted a Return to serve for further explanation: it would be highly useful, too, that it should be placed in my power to give some additional encouragement to serving in the provincial artillery neither my head nor my hand is in a state to enter more largely into these subjects—I have ordered clothing from Montreal for those two corps, some of which at least I hope to get up this winter. Our session will probably be short, but I trust it will not be unproductive of benefit to our militia system.

I am, my dear Colonel Always very faithfully yours R. H. Sheaffe

Colonel Baynes &c &c &c

Some of the Prisoners have arrived and have been passed over—General Winchester—a Colonel and a Major remain here for orders from Head Quarters.

Colonel Elliott writes to Col. Claus that there are about a hundred Indians detained by the Americans, whom our allies wish to get exchanged.

R. H. S.

Major Plenderleath and Capt Bridge arrived to-day.

[C 678-p 86.]

TO CAPTAIN ROBERTS

(*War—1812*)

Prairie Du Chien 1 Feby 5th 1813

1 On the Mississippi, in Wisconsin. The letter is from a Sioux chief, much inclined to ally himself with the British.

My Father ,

As a cloud is approaching over the heads of thy children whom thou hast put under my care, and that the Americans mean to take possession of this piece of land.

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I would wish to clear it, but I want help—The whites send you knews—Come and assist me as soon as possible.—I have talked with the Sagnees, Antagamies, Ounibagoes, and we have all but one heart.

Thy friend Signed La Feuille 1 his + mark

1 See appendix.

Witness (signed) I. Fraser Fran. M. Deauze A true copy John Lambton Ensn 10th R. V. Battn

Directed to the Commandant of Fort Michilimackinac

[C 678-p 157.]

TO CAPTAIN ROBERTS1

(*War—1812*)

Prairie Du Chien 10th Feby 1813

Sir ,

As it appears you desired Mr. Rolette in case anything of importance should happen relative to the British Governt to give you notice of it, and as no opportunity offers, We the undersigned, residing at Prairie du Chien, being British subjects, believe it to be our duty to give you the following information:—

Inclosed you have a letter of Boiloiu, Indian agent, for the Americans, as also a talk from him to the Ouenibagoes and other Nations.—There is no necessity of pointing out to you their intentions for you will perceive them.—The Sioux, Sagnees, Ontagamies & Ouenibagoes who are returned from Washington, have given us the same information, as also something more—

It is with pleasure we inform you that the sentiments of these Indians, altho' they have received large presents, are not altered, especially the Sagnees of whom we were suspicious. They held a talk here and we sent for La Feuille first Soux Chief to know their sentiments, and it is at their instigation that we have taken the present steps—

The public talk of all these Nations was for the purpose of joining themselves to oppose the Americans and prevent their coming up to this place, being convinced that their and their children's lives depended upon it.

As you cannot have a perfect knowledge of this country, and of what importance 246 the preservation of this post is, (being the center of all the Indian Nations above mentioned) we refer you to Mr. D. Grahame, the bearer, of the present, who is well known at Mackinac, for all further particulars.

It remains to be observed that the Indians form about Five thousand men, and we join with them to beg you will do your possible to succour us, being persuaded that the British Government is not accustomed to suffer its subjects here, to the amount of about 200 to perish.

We ourselves will do our possible to repel them, waiting for such succours; but we wish to know if we shall be justified in doing it, and if we may take the powder the Merchants have here, waiting for your assistance, which if you do not give, the Indians will be obliged to throw themselves at the feet of those people they detest so much, for powder and other necessaries, without which they cannot exist, and for the obtaining of which they will be obliged to sacrifice every British subject—Then the *English influence* adieu! among the nations of the Mississippi—As we are well assured of your zeal for every thing that is British, we beg of you, if you are resolved to succour us, not to delay, one day, one hour is of consequence!—In conclusion we assure you that we are devoted to the British cause, and are respectfully,

Your most obedient servants

Jos Rolette1

1 See appendix.

M. Benbois

J. Bte Berthelot

St Jean det La Perche

Fran M. Dease

Duncan Graham

James Fraser

Harry Munro Fisher

Jn Fasebault

Denis Constois—(Contois)

J. Bte Mayrand

Bazille Irard

F. Burke

F. Boutheillier

A true copy (Signed) John Lambton Ensn 10th R. V. Battn

To Captain Chas Roberts Commanding at Michilimackinac

[C 678-p 160]

TO CAPTAIN ROBERTS

(*War—1812*)

Charles Roberts Esqr Captain

Captain

Being informed by the papers to your address of the critical situation in which our friends at La Prairie are situated, we join with them to claim 247 from you a prompt assistance—The disposition of the Indians appear such as one would desire, provided advantage is taken of it—but time presses—to correspond to it is perhaps too late.

It is extraordinary that our Government asks the Indians help in this War, and that it refuses the furnishing them the necessary quantity of powder—May this want of Energy not put them under the necessity of turning those arms that are disposed to serve us, against us.—After having, with all possible zeal, as soon as required, assisted His

Majestys Service, shall we be abandoned to the mercy of his Enemies, when so little would be sufficient to succour us—We believe that 30 Barrels of powder; that is to say, 1500 lb. forwarded as soon as possible, will be sufficient, with 500 lb which are at La Prairie, and 200 lb here waiting your order.—With this succour the Indians will be in a situation to oppose the Americans, & wait till the open navigation may bring them a great quantity.

We differ in opinion from the Gentlemen at La Prairie about the quantity of powder sufficient for the present—We cannot believe that 500 lb is sufficient to furnish 2500 to 3000 Indians against 4000 Americans, which it is certain are to advance—you will judge yourself.

Such are the Representations which we are authorized to make you, with the greatest confidence and the utmost consideration.

Ig. Polier

I. Franks

Pierre Gugnon1

1 These names should be Grignon, as they appear on pages 194, 624, 658, 670. Augustin Grignon was a grandson of Charles D. Langlade, Supt. Ind. Dept. Green Bay. See Vol XIII p. 499 this series.

Ph. La Saussay

Louis Gugnon

(Agustine)—Austen Gugnon

Joseph LaMonsey

A true Copy John Lambton Ensn 10th R. V. Battn

Directed Charles Roberts Captn Commandant at the Fort of Michilimackinac.

[C 678-p 158.]

CAPTAIN GLEGG TO COLONEL BAYNES

(*War—1812*)

Fort George 10th Feby 1813

Sir

I have the honor to transmit for your information a Return of the Troops, Regulars, Militia, Marine and Indian Department who were 248 engaged at Frenchtown on the River Raisin on the 22d Jany 1813, with a statement of the killed and wounded.

A return of the Reinforcement that left this Post on the 2nd instant to join Colonel Proctor at Amherstburg is herewith enclosed.

I avail myself of this opportunity to inform you that Brigdr General Winchester with about twenty officers arrived here two days since, and with the exception of the General, a few field officers, and his personal staff they have been all allowed to go over to the American side on their Parole, those remaining are merely detained until His Excellency's pleasure shall be known.

I have the honor to be Sir Your obedt humble Servant J. B. Glegg Capt. Actg B. M.

Colonel Baynes Adjt Genl

[C 678-p 91.]

CAPTAIN ROBERTS TO CAPTAIN GLEGG

(*War—1812*)

Fort Michilimackinac 10th Feby 1813

Sir

Inclosed are the Returns of Provisions and Stores remaining in charge of the Commissariat, and of the Ordnance also, at this Post & that of St. Joseph's

In the requisitions given in by the head of the Indian Department, it will not escape Your notice that some of the things such as Deer skins, Canoes &c can be procured on the spot, but I thought it best to let you see all our probable wants.

Of the Provisions, Pork, Corn, and Grease will be the first wanting, and the Guns will be early in demand. The Ordnance and other stores, and repairs, that are wanting are but few, and many of them, such as the platforms, the repair of the Roof of the Magazine, the making of wheelbarrows, and hand barrows, I shall be able to effect with the means within my reach. The Serjeant Artificer has rendered me most essential service indeed, without the Aid of such a man it would have been impossible to have met the Constant demands for the making and repairing of Carts and Sleighs. 249 Thrown Entirely upon my own resources to furnish Fuel for the Posts three of the four horses taken at this place were immediately given in charge to three drivers at one shilling per day each, and by this means I have been enabled to execute this duty, as well as that of Conveying Provisions and Stores of every kind to the Garrison, which have to go a Circuitous route of nearly two miles from the Landing place, at a Moderate Expense.—The Hay for these Horses was furnished by the Serjeant and Six men under his charge, who were paid in Whisky, at the rate of half a pint each man per day, for the time they were employed. This Liquor constituted a part of the Stores taken with the Fort. Corn I have been obliged to purchase, and as money will be wanting to meet this and other Contingent expenses, it is

highly necessary that Some Should be sent up. The Serjeant has been a great loser by the Change which has taken place here. He has a large family and has exerted himself so readily in getting through a great deal of laborious work, that I do hope he will be allowed something more than the usual allowance of one shilling and threepence the day. Your idea of the Voyageurs is excellent. Nothing Could be better Calculated to meet the exigencies which we must look forward to. The large Canoes wanted for these purposes cannot be had here, As it is by no means impossible that an attempt may be made upon this post by the way of the Illinois River, I shall feel the strong necessity of always keeping a number of trusty Indians here. One of the Prize sloops is an excellent Sailor, and if I had one or two Confidential seamen to put on board of her, I think she might be of essential service. As boats will also be much wanted, I should strongly recommend they should be purchased from Mr Crawford, who has some large Barges at St Joseph's, well Calculated for every purpose. It is unnecessary to impress upon your mind that the Messengers who will be sent to Lake Superior, will have long & tedious journies to perform, not a moment should be lost in making the wishes of the Government known on this subject.

(Signed) Charles Roberts , Capt 10th Vet. Bn

Capt Glegg &c &c &c true Copy.

Robt R. Loring Capt & A D C

[C 678-p 127.] 32

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FROM MR. DICKSON—UNADDRESSED

(*Indians*)

Sandwich , February 15th 1813.

Sir ,

The last communication I had the honor to make to your Excellency was on the 4th Inst. from Niagara, after which I sett out for this place, accompany'd by Capt. Norton whom I found at the Grand River.

Having met with Colonel Procters express going to Fort George, with intelligence of the near approach of Harrison's Army, we lost no time in sending paroles to the Indians on the Road requesting them to repair to Detroit with all expedition.

We had already at the Grand River prepared to select a band of Warriors to follow, provided this measure met with Major General Sheaffe's approbation.

I have not yet delivered the speech to the Indians as it requires some time to assemble the Chiefs; those who have been informed of Your Excellency's intention of supporting them are in the highest spirits, & I am fully convinced that it will produce the most happy effects on the whole.

I shall leave this on the 22nd Inst. for Chicago. I have taken the necessary precautions with Capt. Elliott to have couriers stationed in proper places to forward any orders I may have the honor to receive from Your Excellency or Major General Sheaffe, & who will transmit the necessary communications from me.

I have to observe that since the Battle of the 22nd ult.1 that the Indians are flocking in & they all entertain the highest confidence in Col. Procter & His Majesty's Troops.

1 At the River Raisin, by “flocking in” he means coming from western Michigan, Northern Indiana and the Indian tribes adjacent thereto.

I have the honor to be with highest respect, Sir Your Excellency's Most obedient and very humble servant Robert Dickson .

[C 257-p 52.]

MEMORIAL1

To His Excellency Sir George Prevost, Baronet, Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over the Provinces of Lower Canada Upper Canada &c &c &c .

The Memorial of a number of the principal inhabitants residing within the Western District of the Province of Upper Canada.

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Most Respectfully represents

That the Post of Amherstburg is of the utmost importance in the Defence of the Province, and that if the Enemy should become possessed thereof the Province would become an easy Conquest.

That the late acquisition of the Territory of Michigan, by giving us the entire possession of the Streight and removing the Enemy to a greater distance must be attended with the greatest advantages as well towards the more easy defence of the province, as in commercial and other benefits to His Majesty's subjects.

That the Posts of Amherstburg and Detroit are the Keys of the Western Countries, and their loss would in great measure, Deprive His Majesty of the aid of the Indian Tribes, and also render them an easy prey to their implacable Enemies.

That the Aid of the Indians is of infinite importance to the success of His Majesty's Arms in these parts, but your Memorialists beg leave to observe that they are thinly scattered over immense Tracts of Land and through immense Forests, and that from their necessities as well as their habits they cannot long continue together in large bodies and that therefore an occasional aid only from them can be depended on.

That the States of Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee and others, which border on the Indian Lands, are large and very populous, and that the American Government and Commanders are resorting to every means to conciliate, intimedate, and divide the different tribes.

That the Americans have already opened several roads leading through the Indian lands towards Detroit and have strongly fortified themselves adjacent to the newly acquired Territory of Michigan within one days march of the River aux Raisin and fifty miles of Amherstburg.

That as well to unite the Indians and command their respect for us, as to secure the Posts of Amherstburg and Detroit and thereby in great measure the Province at large and occasionally to co-operate with them, Your memorialists deem it essentially necessary that a considerable regular Force should be immediately stationed at those Posts.

Your Memorialists also beg leave to observe that the late General Brock was so well convinced of the absolute necessity of a considerable regular force being stationed in this quarter that he repeatedly declared to several of your memorialists that at least sixteen hundred men should be stationed at Amherstburg alone.

That from the want of such a force, and the Militia of the District having been kept absent from their Agricultural concerns, a very large proportion of the last years crops were destroyed, and that very little wheat was sown last fall, which will produce a great scarcity during the ensuing season.

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That this evil can alone be palliated by suffering the Inhabitants to remain as much as possible on their Farms, and raising spring crops of Indian corn, oats, etc.

Wherefore Your Memorialists humbly pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to take the premises into your Consideration and afford to the Country such relief as Your Excellency

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in your wisdom shall deem expedient and your Memorialists as in duty bound shall ever pray Sandwich 26 February 1813

M. Elliott

Wm Mills

Robert Innes

Jas. Gordon

Jas Little

Charles Fortier

Wm Elliott

R. Richardson

William Hands

A. Maisonville

Jas Caldwell

Geo. Ironside

Robert Woolsey

John Drake

Thos. McCrea

John Williams

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Library of Congress

Mathew Dolsen

William Shaw

Ewd Richardson

Christian Fredk Denkey

John Schnall

R. Pattinson

Jas Woods

Ja (James) Baby1

1 See appendix

Thos. Caldwell

Jas. Allan

R. Pollard

Wm Caldwell

A. Pringle

John Dolsen

John Sims

I. B. (J. B.) Baby1

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Library of Congress

Moses David

John Gentle

Nicholas Lytle

I. Parent

Robt. Reynolds

Jas. Askin

Claude Gouin

F. (Francis) Baby1

Angus MacKintosh

Jas McIntosh

Alexr. MacKintosh

Duncan McIntosh.

James Sinclair

John Askin

Geo Jacob

[C 678-p 112]

LIEUT. COL. MYERS TO COL. BAYNES

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(*War—1812*)

York , 10th March 1813

Sir

I am directed by Major General Sheaffe to acquaint you that in consequence of a letter which he received2 from the Military Secretary from

2 6 March.

253 Kingston; and of the arrival here of Captain MacDowall from Amherstburg, who states that from your communication to him to Brigr General Procter, he is in hourly expectation of the portion1 of the 41st Regiment which will make him up five companies thereof, the Grenadier company of that corps, with its complement of officers and non-commissioned officers, has been ordered to proceed to him in light marching order without delay. The heavy baggage will follow with the head quarters on the opening of the navigation.—

1 72 Privates.

From the conversation I had with His Excellency the Commander of the Forces and yourself, upon this subject, I had understood that no part of this arrangement was to take place until the navigation *did open* ; however under all circumstances it may prove of advantage to the service to push forward the Grenadiers, and I trust it will meet His Excellencys approbation.

The Major General understanding by Mr. Freer's letter, that the head quarters and a proportion of the Newfoundland Regiment had been directed to move from Kingston for this post, he has given orders to Colonel Pearson to send them on without loss of time. He will by their arrival here, be enabled to replace, in numbers, the 41st Grenadiers, The line from Fort George to Fort Erie can but ill spare even the temporary loss of them; in the mean time, the best distribution possible of what is left will be made.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient humble servant Christo Myers Col Actg. Q. Mr. Gl.

To Colonel Baynes Adjutant General

[C 678-p 110]

FROM COMMISSIONER MILLER2

2 William Miller was the American agent for exchange of prisoners, he was stationed at Halifax to arrange exchanges with the British officers.

(*War—1812*)

Transport Office, Halifax , March 11—1813

Gentlemen ,

I have the honor to enclose an advertisement from the Halifax paper relative to certain American Prisoners of War taken at Detroit, Niagara, &c. & said to be exchanged for a Detachment of the R. Scots Regt. captured 254 by the U. S. Frigate Essex, in the Samuel & Sarah Transport on the 11th July last, some particulars relative to the above may be necessary for me to state for the information of Your Honl. Board.

On the 1st Sep. 1812 I was desired by Adml. Sawyer to form an Exchange for the above detachment, with the crew of the U. S. Sloop Nautilus, which Exchange Lt. Crane, her late Commander proposed to get ratified, & he embarked on the 3rd Sep. on board the Dart, a Cartel hired by him for the express purpose of conveying his crew with some others belonging to the U. S. Navy, a copy of which I transmitted to Your Honble Board on the 9th Sep. no further communication took place on this Subject until the arrival of Mr. Mitchell (the American Agent for prisoners) about the latter part of Sept. In my enquiry whether the above exchange was ratified, he informed me that Lt. Crane was on parole, & that

he knew nothing of such exchange taking place, on the news of the Capture of Detroit, I supposed His Excelly. Sir G. Prevost (Com. in Chief) would then have made some arrangement to exchange the above troops, more particularly when I found that a Major Murray1 had arrived at Boston (in the month of Decr. in the Naval Transport, a Cartel from Quebec) for the purpose of attending to the Exchange of Prisoners of War.

1 This Major Murray was appointed by Prevost in February, 1813, agent for the exchange of prisoners. Not the John Murray made colonel by the Prince Regent June 4, 1813, who was active in the line and in several engagements on the Niagara frontier.

On the 23rd Nov. the necessary arrangement was completed respecting the exchange of Prisoners of War between Adml. Sir J. B. Warren, the Atty. Genl. myself & Mr. Mitchell, the crews of H. M's late Ship Genivieve & part of the Hatera's & Avenger's were exchanged for the crews of the U. S. Ships Nantilus & Wasp, copies of which exchange I have transmitted to Your Honble Board.

There appears an Error in the Statement in the news paper respecting Mr. Mitchel's letter to Mr. Monroe on the 23rd Nov, as Mr. Mitchell informed me that his letter was only relative to the last exchange made on the above date, and was much surprised this day when I was informed by His Excellency Sir J. C. Sherbrooke that the first exchange was not ratified by the American Government.

I have &c (signed) Wm. Miller , Agent for Prisoners of War

Commissioner for Transport Service.

[C 689-p 49.]

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EARL BATHURST TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

No. 24

Downing Street 12th March 1813

Sir

I have had the honor of submitting to the consideration of the Prince Regent your several Despatches from No. 22 to 31 inclusive.

The additional Proof which these despatches afford of the Gallantry and discipline of that portion of His Majestys Troops under your Command, is most gratifying to His Royal Highness, nor does His Royal Highness either overlook or undervalue the distinguished cooperation of the militia of the Canadian Provinces, or the General Zeal by which the whole Population appears to have been animated in repelling the invasion of the enemy.

The faint attempt made by the American Army on the frontiers of Lower Canada, terminating as it has done, in a disastrous retreat, appears to me sufficiently to indicate the Upper Province as that agt which their principal attempts will be hereafter made. Under this impression, I cannot but express a hope that you may have been enabled to make such detachments to the Upper Province as to meet the corresponding efforts of the enemy.

I have lately had occasion to communicate to you the various measures which have been adopted for affording you a Reinforcement of Troops early in the Spring. To those which I mentioned in my dispatches of the 12th January, and the 11th February, of which copies are herewith inclosed, I have now to add that 550 men of the 19th Dragoons have been ordered for service in Canada, and will sail from Cork in Company with the Infantry as per margin,1 about the 20th Instant. I am not without hopes that you may previous to their arrival, have collected the supply of Horses requisite for this number of men, but I

have thought it nevertheless expedient to direct the Embarkation of 150 Horses from Cork for the service of the officers and non commissioned officers of the regiment in order to obviate the difficulties which you may find in mounting those ranks immediately for service in the field.

1 41st Foot 2d Batt 500 Detachments 654

I have to state with great regret that the long continuance of westerly winds has prevented the Transports, intended for the conveyance of the two Regiments from Barbadoes to Canada from proceeding to the West Indies, and that you must consequently be prepared to expect a delay in their arrival at Quebec corresponding to that which has so unfortunately taken place in their departure from this country. One of the Regiments from the Mediterranean, which I mentioned in my former dispatch, is however arrived 256 at Cadiz, and will at the End of this month be on the passage to the St. Lawrence The other Regiment from Malta may also be looked for at an early period: and as I learn from Sir J. C. Sherbrooke that you have ordered the 8th Regiment, and a Company of Artillery from Halifax I trust that you will, on the breaking up of the frost, be as secure from any serious apprehensions for the safety of either Province, as you would have been, if the Reinforcements from the West Indies had arrived in Canada, as was intended, at a more early period of the year.

As the arrival of all the intended Reinforcements will have the effect of placing under your orders a considerable number of empty Transports, it will be necessary that you should, with a view to the General convenience of the service, direct their return to this country by the first convoy unless it should occur to you that their detention could be of any material advantage.

The necessity of maintaining that naval superiority on the Lakes, which in your dispatch No you described yourself as possessing, has at no time been lost sight of by His Majestys Government and I am happy to find that the Measures which they have adopted already,

are so much in unison with those recommended by you. The Woolwich Troop ship is now at the point of sailing for North America, with the officers and seamen specified in the margin,1 she has also on board such naval stores as are considered necessary for the equipment of the two new vessels building on Lake Ontario. The canonades required for these vessels together with the Barrack, Marine, and Batteaux Stores, for which a requisition had been previously received, are now shipping on board a Transport which will proceed with the first fleet. I fear that the want of detailed Explanation as to the size or description of these vessels may occasion the omission of some perhaps very necessary articles. But I trust this deficiency will be obviated by the directions which have been given to the Dockyard at Halifax, to afford you on all occasions such assistance as is consistent with the means placed at their disposal. The inconvenience of giving to the Quarter Master General the superintendence of the Naval Department has been obviated by the appointment of Sir James Yeo, as commanding officer on the Lakes, who will be in communication with Sir I. (J) B. Warren,2 and the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty on all subjects connected with that Branch of the service. It will however be necessary that the storing and victualling of the vessels employed on the Lakes should be conducted as heretofore. In order to remove any doubt which might otherwise exist respecting the nature and Limits of the Command to be exercised by the Naval officer on the Lakes, it is, my Intention to transmit to you by the earliest opportunity a copy of

1 Commodore, Captains, Lieutenants, 10 Midshipmen, 100 Seamen.

2 Admiral Sir John Borlase Warren, commanding the naval station at Halifax, to whom Sir James Yeo, commanding the lakes, made reports.

257 the Instructions which will be given on this subject to Sir James L. Yeo;—and have only to express my confident expectation that as he is to be placed, by these Instructions, as much under your Control as is consistent with the rules of the Department under which he is now immediately acting, so you will find him always ready effectually to forward any objects which you may have in view for the defence of the Provinces under your charge.

The Requisition contained in your dispatches No 23 & 29 had already been fulfilled by the order which had been previously given for forwarding the first fleet to Quebec, clothing, accoutrements, and camp Equipage complete for 10,000 men. The directions which you have given as to the description of clothing required will be immediately attended to.

Equal attention has been paid to the demand of the Commissary General as stated in your dispatch No. 25. I cannot however avoid regretting that the Commissary General should on the eve of a deficient supply of flour in Canada, have thought it prudent to export so considerable a quantity of that article to the Peninsula, at the close of the last year; and I must impress upon you the Importance of deriving, as far as possible, from other Quarters than Great Britain, such further supplies as may be required for the subsistence of the Troops, or the Inhabitants.

I have the Honor to be Sir, Your Most obedient Humble Servant Bathurst

To Lieut General Sir George Prevost Bt

[C 678-p 123.]

CAPTAIN LORING TO SECRETARY FREER

(*War—1812*)

Government House York 13th March 1813

Sir

I transmit to you by Major General Sheaffe's desire, the Copy of a letter from Captain Roberts, Commanding at Michillimackinac, together with returns and Requisitions received from that officer, numbered from 1. to 8.

Similar Copies have been sent to Brigadier General Proctor, who has been directed to transmit without loss of time, a statement of such of the 33 258 Articles required, as Can be furnished from the Post. of Amherstburg, and which he proposes sending up to Captain Roberts, early in the Spring.—

I have the honor to be Sir Your Most obedt servant Robert R. Loring A. D. C. Capt

To Noah Freer Esq Military Secretary

[C 678-p 131.]

Requisition for the undermentioned Ordnance Stores wanted, and some repairs in the Ordnance Department at this Post—Michillimackinac

8th February 1813

Paper cartridges empty 9 pounders 400

do do do 3 do 200

Portfires—Dozens 4

N. B. A.1 Six or three Pounder Brass Gun mounted on a travelling Carriage would be useful for the Field at this post as the 2 six & # Pounder Brass Guns are mounted in the 3 Block Houses on Garrison Carriages & cannot be spared or could be of so much use in the field—1 Battery where one of the 9 pounders stands is not serviceable till thoroughly repaired—and the store above the magazine wants repairing on the Roof as the rain penetrates through to the small arms,

1 It is a carriage only that is wanted

(Signed) Alexr Pilmour Military Conductor of Stores

A true copy Robert R. Loring A. D. C.

[C 678-p 132]

MR. DICKSON TO SECRETARY FREER

(*Indians*)

St. Joseph's Lake Michigan March 16th 1813

Sir

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 1st Inst from Fort George. You will please inform His Excellency, that entrusted with an important command, I shall at all Times, use my utmost endeavours to restrain the Indians, from committing any insults on their Enemies 259 who may fall into their hands. I have already made known to such Tribes as I have seen His Excellency's Order on this Head, with which, they have promised to Comply.

I have seen the Poutewatamies of this place, who are going to join the Shawanies, Kickapous, and Delawares, and with them proceed to Detroit.1

1 See appendix.

The Americans in November last, came up the Illinois river as far as the French Village of Peoria, which they plundered and burnt Carrying with them the Inhabitants to St. Louis, giving as a reason for this unwarrantable proceeding that the Indians were protected and supplied by them. Please inform His Excellency, that their remains, of the ill fated Garrison of Chicago, Captives, Among the Indians, Seventeen Soldiers, four Women and some Children. Knowing it to be consonant to His Excellency's wishes, I have taken the

necessary steps for their redemption & I have the fullest confidence that I shall succeed in getting the whole.

The Americans having last season destroyed the Corn fields of the Indians, Near this place, has rendered provisions Scarce, I have taken the precaution, to send for a Supply from another quarter.

I have thought it expedient to appoint as my instructions prescribe Charles Chaudonet a Lieutenant and Jean Baptiste Chaudonet Interpreter. I request a Commission for the former and a warrant for the latter, the Interpreter employed since 20th February and the other 13th March.

I leaye this to-morrow, and shall have the honour of addressing you in a few days from Chicago and Millwaukee. I trust to reach the Mississippi in the beginning of next Month. I have the honour to be

Sir Your most obedt and Most humble Servant Robert Dickson agent to the Indians of the Western Nations

Noah Freer Esq Military Sect. Quebec

SIR JOHN JOHNSON TO MR. CLAUS

(*Indians*)

Montreal 16th March 1813.

My Dear Sir ,

I received your letters of the 2d and 3d Instant and now by desire of Sir George Prevost send you, herewith, an Extract of a letter from Earl Bathurst, 260 which he desires may be fully and clearly explained to all the Nations Interested, impressing on their minds

in the strongest manner possible that now is the time for their united efforts to rid the Country of these unjust Intruders and Invaders in which they will be strongly aided by all the force that can be spared from this Quarter, as well as by a very formidable Division on the Sea Coast, Particularly to the Southward,1 where their Brethren will be supported in a manner that cannot fail of bringing those deluded People to a just and honorable Peace, that will secure to them their Country, so unfairly possessed by the Americans. I represented what you desired to Sir George Prevost, in the strongest manner I could, relative to the allowances hitherto withheld from the Indian Department, as stated in your letter to which he replied that if they continued to act as they had done, their services should be compensated, and that you should make the application through Sir Roger H. Sheaffe, which you should lose no time in doing, and I cannot doubt its success.

1 See appendix.

Our stores are nearly emptied of all the most necessary articles, but large Supplies, Sir George informs me, will be out this Spring, and you may be assured, no delay in forwarding them will be found here, and if the communication will be secured, by our keeping command of the River, and Lakes, you may probably get everything that can be spared and procured here earlier. I am happy to learn that the Indians appear to be so unanimous, and hearty in the cause, they have certainly saved your Province, and should be treated accordingly. they have acted nobly and I hope they have ere this given the finishing Blow to the Invading Armies. Never was there a War carried on so miserably as the Americans have this, without knowing how to combine their force, or to cooperate with one another, and by all accounts badly supplied with Provisions, and every other necessary for carrying on a War. I hope as soon as our Navy, and perhaps a united English and Spanish force begin to operate to the Southward, you will be a more equal match for them, and that an honorable Peace, and extended boundary will be the result of the most unjust, unprovoked, and unnatural War that ever was waged against any Nation, and which Providence, hitherto, seems to have frowned upon, for never was there more disgrace attached to any set of men, that there has been to them, in every attempt they

have made to disturb the Peace, and happiness of an unoffending people.—the disgrace, and total Destruction of the Grand united Force, under that fiend and disturber of the Peace of the World, Bonaparte, is a further proof of the interference of Providence, and I hope will lead to the downfall of the greatest of Tyrants.—Let me hear from you on every occasion worth communicating, particularly the result of General Harrisons 261 expedition—our frontiers here, are nearly abandoned by the Enemy, to strengthen their upper Posts, particularly Sacket's harbour, which might have been destroyed with all their shipping, which would have seemed to us the command of Ontario—which without the greatest exertions now I fear will be lost.

I am dear Sir Your most affectionate and faithful friend John Johnson

Return the enclosed as I have not taken a copy of it.

Wm. Claus Esq. &c. &c. &c

[M. G. 11-p 81]

MAJ. GEN. SHEAFFE TO SECRETARY FREER

(*War—1812*)

York 20th March 1813

Dear Sir

Thinking that it would be proper to transmit to Earl Bathurst the documents received from B General Proctor as explanatory of his motives for establishing Martial Law in the Territory of Michigan, I have looked for them but in vain—I therefore take it for granted that they accompanied you from hence, and that His Excellency will send them home, if he thinks it necessary.

I have been favoured with your communications of the 11th of March containing much agreeable intelligence—the promised reinforcement will not be the less acceptable for having been unexpected—I wish the Riga Heroes were at their destined posts.

I believe that the sum to be transferred by Sir George's warrant to the Receiver General cannot be ascertained until I go to Fort George, where I hope to be in a very few days; the sum first asked is, perhaps, not sufficient at present.

Major Heathcote1 and detachment arrived to day—I expect two companies of Glengary in a day or two.—

1 Major Heathcote, second in command, led the Glengary company and part of the Newfoundland Fencibles at the capture of York, April 27th, 1813, in which engagement Gen. Zebulon M. Pike was killed.

You will have the goodness to complete the information about *all* the allowances for the several militia staff departments, clerks & their allowces what for office rent, stationary—of what rank the Gn allnces of the D B Master General &c.

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The Enemy celebrated St. Patrick's day by firing on us at our right flank—one man was killed, and two wounded of the Newfld Regt—We dismounted, it is said, three of their Guns — I am Dear Sir

Your very faithful servant R. H. Sheaffe

Noah Freer Esqr &c &c &c

FROM MR. DICKSON—UNADDRESSED

(*Indians*)

Chicago 1 22 March 1813.

1 Intended leaving St. Joseph March 17; appears to have taken five days, coasting along Lake Michigan to reach Chicago; but to have been at Chicago a day before penning his report.

Sir

I had the honor of addressing you from Detroit on the 15th ulto. & had remained at that place until the 4th instant, since which I have with some difficulty reached this. I proceed to-day on my journey, & I hope I ten days hence to get to the Mississippi. Nothing of any importance has occurred in this Quarter since last November when the Americans ascended the Illinois River—plundered and burnt the French Village of Peoria.

The Indians on the Wabash are all on their march for Detroit, and I hope that I will soon be able to send others there. There remains of this Garrison, Two Pieces of Brass Ordnance—three pounders—one in the River with wheels & the other dismounted. I shall endeavour to get them conveyed to Michilimackinac. The Powder Magazine is in a state of high Preservation & the Houses on the outside of the Fort are well constructed & will be excellent for lodging troops should it be found necessary to make any establishment here. I have recommended to the Indians, that they must not be in any way injured as it is probable that their Father may have occasion for them. I think that I will reach Michilimackinac towards the end of May where I hope to meet your orders for my destination. You may rely upon my losing no time in getting forward to the point you may judge proper—the force with me may be employed with effect. I shall on my arrival on the Mississippi send you intelligence respecting what is going on there.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect Your most obedient and most humble Servant (Signed) Robert Dickson agent to the Indians of the Western Nations.

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[C 257-p 67.]

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TO MAJ. GEN. SHEAFFE—WITHOUT SIGNATURE1

1 See appendix.

(*War—1812*)

Confidential

Quebec 27th March 1813

Maj. Genl. Sir R. H. Sheaffe Bt &c

Sir ,

The period for carrying on actively offensive operations approaching fast and many circumstances uniting to indicate that Upper Canada will become in the first instance the seat of war, I have been induced to reinforce the forces under your command with half a company of Artillery—the 8th (or King's) Regiment—six Companies of the 104th Regiment and four companies of the Canadian voltigeurs, to enable you to restrain the predatory incursions of the Enemy and defeat any repitition of the ill concerted attacks which presumption has hitherto induced him to make.

But in the event of an attempt at invasion conducted on the principle of his possessing a sufficiency of means for the object, it will be wise to act with such caution as would enable you to husband your resources for future exertion.

I therefore do not hesitate in recommending activity and perseverance in the measures of defence for which your present force and recent preparations are so well calculated.

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The fatal effects of dividing and dissipating a force by attempting to support too many points have been so frequently illustrated of late that I am under little apprehension of your not feeling that it is by concentrated means alone adequate effects can ever be produced. I am satisfied that the application of this principle may with safety be left to your prudence and judgement aided by the perfect knowledge of the country which you possess. Convinced that it is impossible I can free you from many embarrassments which will inevitably arise from circumstances inseparable from the war we are carrying on, as they can neither be foreseen nor provided for, it only remains for me to assure you that I have every disposition for putting the most liberal construction on your measures for the promotion of the public Service, in every difficulty that may occur, and for making on all occasions, the most favourable report of them, founded on those principles to His Majestys Government.

Besides the extraordinary exertions which have been made for regaining our ascendancy on Lake Ontario, and for maintaining that which we now possess on Lake Erie, by sending you such articles as were required for fitting out and arming the additional vessels now building at Kingston York 264 and Amherstburg you have been supplied with clothing for your militia and with arms accoutrements ammunition and stores of every kind and description.

Unacquainted with the changes which your Militia Law has experienced I am obliged to confine myself on that subject to recommending in the most earnest manner to your particular regard the formation of your corps of militia, and that when called out they should be regularly paid, properly fed, and comfortably clothed; In my late visit to Upper Canada those essential points appeared to me not sufficiently attended to, and to be the cause of serious complaint.

I am now come to that highly important part of your resources the employment of the Indians, some in aid of your precautionary measures of defence and others for making

offensive demonstrations for the recovery of their usurped territory—the latter of which cannot fail to operate as a powerful diversion in your favour.

In consideration therefore of the movement of the confederate nations from the Wabash to the River Raisin under Tecumseh, and of the expected arrival from the westward of several warlike tribes with Mr. Dickson,—the aggregate number of which will be formidable I have decided on entrusting the management of those distinct tribes of Indians to other hands that those that are at present employed in the Indian Department at Amherstburg, and accordingly have appointed Mr. R. Dickson Deputy Superintendant of Indians in the Michigan and conquered territory, on account of the high opinion I entertain of his courage, his perseverance, his integrity and zeal for the service.

The late instance of the Intrigue resorted to by the Indian Department in the case of Norton and the evidence it afforded of the want of proper subordination have put me on my guard against their endeavours to thwart my designs or impede their progress, because they are not to be executed by them, and induces me to recommend to you to vest in Colonel Procter sufficient authority to enable him to support Mr. Dickson in his organization of the Indians, from the westward, and in his endeavours to check the prodigal expenditure of provisions and to establish strict impartiality in the treatment they experience from us, so that His Majesty's gracious bounty may flow through the channel in which it was intended.

I cannot too frequently repeat to you that having been unfortunately under the necessity of availing ourselves of Indian assistance, it is desirable on every principle of humanity & policy that all practicable means should be adopted to soften the ferocity of their usual mode of warfare and to restrain them in it.

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With a view of facilitating the important services which are soon to take place in the Maine branch of the Q. Mr. Genl dept. in Upper Canada; I have ordered Captain Gray to proceed to Kingston as an officer well qualified to afford you assistance in the

cooperative measures you have in contemplation for the previous concentration and future preservation of our ships of war until the arrival of the naval officers and seamen who have been promised from England.

I am &c.

P. S. Upon the arrival at Fort George of the King's Regt, you will push on to Detroit the Companies of the 41st Regt you have detained on the Niagara Frontier.

[Freer papers 1812–13, p 118½]

RETURN

(*War—1812*)

Return of Garrison Ordnance Mounted on the Several Batteries with the Number of Pounds of Ammunition for Garrison Service at the undermentioned Posts

Fort George 31st March 1813

Detroit

In charge of Samuel Wood. 4. 6 pounders Iron.

Mackina

In Charge of Military Condr. Pilmour

2.9. pounders. Iron

2.6. “ “

6.½ “ “

lbs 480., 9. pound round shot.

1,067=6= “ “ “

463—6-pound “ “

1193-1-“ “ “

lbs 277½-“ “ “

40 lbs. 6. Grape “ “

91 lbs. ½-pound Grape 34

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600-1 pound cannon case

18=Large Grain powder whole Barrels.

(Certified). Jas. Gorden , cpt Commg.

Hen. Holcroft, Major Capt Comg Rl. Artillery.

[C 387-p 46.]

RETURN

(*Ordnance and Engineer*)

Return of Small Arms , accoutrements, and Ball Cartridges, with materials for making up small arm ammunition in charge of the Field Train Department at the undermentioned Posts—

Library of Congress

Fort George 31st March 1813

Detroit

In charge of Saml Wood: None.

Mackina

In Charge of Military Condr Pilmour—

179-S French Muskets

6-S Rifles.

162-S Pouches Accoutrements

15540. Buck Shot

6900 Flint Musket

12.1.18 Lead cwt. Qrs. lbs.

4 Powder fine grain W. Barrel.

James Gorden (Certified) Capt Comg.

(Certified) Hen. Holcroft Major Comg. Rl Artillery— Included in the return of remains

[C 387-p. 49.]

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RETURN

(*Ordnance & Engineer*)

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Return of Field Ordnance and Travelling Carriages, with the number of pounds of Ammunition for Field Service at the undermentioned posts—

Fort George 31st March 1813

Detroit

In charge of Samuel Wood—none

***Mackina* in Charge of Military Comr Pilmour—**

2., 6 pounder guns Brass

1,, 3 “ “ “

80 pounds 6 pounder Round Shot

37 “ 3 “ “ “

110 “ 6 “ Common Case

57 “ 3 “ “ “

65 “ 5½ pound 16 ounces Common Case

592 “ 5½ shells—

[C 387-p 48]

BRIG. GEN. PROCTOR TO MAJ. GEN. SHEAFFE

(*Indians*)

Sandwich , 5 April 1813.

Library of Congress

Sir ,

I feel it a duty incumbent on me to submit to your consideration, circumstances in the mode of paying the Indian Department here, highly injurious to the service, as tending to excite much dissatisfaction in the Department, by unnecessary delays in their payment; and also by having the value of their Income much lessened thereby. Each Individual of the Department here, is paid by the Superintendant's draft on Mr. Cameron at York, payable when the Pay List has been approved of by Your Honor, which if I am rightly informed is not untill the signature of each individual has been obtained to a receipt for Pay which they have not received, as well as occasionally to their half yearly Declaration; in consequence of which, if, as is the case at present, any individual of the Dept. in this District should 268 happen to be absent, even on duty, the whole of the Dept. remain unpaid for want of this signature tho' all the rest have been so accommodating as to give receipts for what many of them may not live to receive. The only Payment (if it deserves that appellation) the Dept. in this District has received for nine months has been these Bills (not honored) so depreciated from the delay & uncertainty of payment that they are become a mere drug in the hands of the merchants, and are scarcely negotiable even on their own terms—This crying evil might, I humbly conceive, be remedied, even tho' the Pay Lists can be approved by Your Honor only, by occasionally having a supplementary Pay List & by having the Dept. in this District paid by some person here who would be amply remunerated by the half per cent which is now deducted from their income, if that should be deemed requisite. The money might be received thro' the hands of Mr. Gilmore just as well as from Mr. Crookshank1 for the above purpose.

1 See appendix.

I have the honor to be &c (signed) Henry Procter , Brig. General Commg.

Major General Sir R. H. Sheaffe Bart &c. &c. &c. Fort George

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[257-p 75]

CAPTAIN LORING TO SECRETARY FREER

(*Indians*)

Head Quarters York 19th April 1813.

Sir

I enclose by direction of Sir Roger H. Sheaffe 3 Papers

1 being copy of a letter from Brig. General Proctor

2 Proposed alteration for Paying Indian Department

3 Copy of a Letter from M. S. to Governor Gore. This last you save you the trouble of searching for it in your office.

Sir Roger desires me to say that he is exceedingly anxious for a supply of money, according to his Requisition lately transmitted, the balance of the £37,000 lately received not being sufficient to pay the Militia.

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I am further ordered to inform you that Sir Roger has thought it advisable to purchase a small sloop at this Place, called the Mary Ann, for 200 Hal. Currency as she can be employed with much benefit to the service as a transport.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient humble Servant Robert R. Loring A. D. C. Capt.

To Noah Freer Esq. M. S. &c. &c.

[C 257-p 78]

CAPTAIN LORING TO SECRETARY FREER

(*War—1812*)

Government House York 5th April 1813

Sir ,

I have been directed by Major General Sir Roger H. Sheaffe to forward to you the accompanying Papers numbered from 1 to 6. The 5 first being copies of information received from Captain Roberts, and the 6th, a Muster Roll and Pay list of a Detachment of Canadian Volunteers at Michilimackinac

I have the honor to be Your very obedient servt Robert R. Loring A. D. C. Captn

to Noah Freer Esqr M. S.

[C 678-p 151.]

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Muster Roll and Pay List

Muster Roll and Pay List of a Detachment of Canadian Volunteers under Command of Captn C. Roberts from 25th Feby to 24th March 1813

No of each class No Rank and Names Pay and additional allowances Amount 14 yrs 7 yrs From To L. S. D. Sarjeants 1 Valincourt Josh 23 Feby. 24 March 28 ¼ 1 17 4 Corporals 1 Martin Morris “ “ 28 1s 10d 1 3 4 Privates 1 Benway Joseph 25 Feb 24 March 28 16d 14 2 Budril Newill “ “ “ 16d 14 3 Brown Peter “ “ “ 16d 14 4 Deberdue Peter “ “ “ 16d 14 5 Larivier Joseph “ “ “ 16d 14 6 Peters Pascall “ “ “ 16d 14 7 Peroult John “ “ “ 16d 14 8 Rebulard Antz “ “ “ 16d 14 9 Tinckall Peml “ “ “ 16d 14 10 Seeny Joseph “ “ “ 16d 14 11 Sulvestus Baptiste “ “ “ 16d 14 £ 10 14 8

I do hereby certify that on the 24th day of February 1813 Mustered the Detachment above specified and that the above is a true statement of the Detachment.

(Signed) Charles Roberts Captain Commanding

A True Copy Robert Loring Captn A. D. C.

[C 678-p 163.]

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MAJ. GEN. SHEAFFE TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

York 5th April 1813.

Sir ,

I have the honor of transmitting herewith extracts of letters received from Captain Roberts Commanding at Michillimackinac;-Copies of the several documents alluded to therein are sent to the Military Secretary to be laid before your Excellency.—It appears to be of importance that Captain Roberts should have a reinforcement as early as possible, and be furnished with certain articles for the supply of the Indians, that he may be enabled to answer Mr. Dickson's demand, and have besides what may be essentially necessary for the Indians in general in his neighborhood;* 1 —I beg leave to submit to Your Excellency consideration the proposal that such articles shall be sent up the Grand River in some of the North West Canoes, chiefly manned with Armed men of the Corps of Voyageurs, with officers of their own in proportion to their number, to serve as a reinforcement

* Marginal note by Military Secretary. The subject of this letter has been referred to Lt. Col. McGillivray.

1 W. McGillivray of Montreal, and the Northwest Fur Co., heretofore noted.

I have the honor to be With much respect Your Excellency's Most obedt humble servant R. H. Sheaffe m. Genl Commg &c &c

His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bart &: &: &.

MAJ. GEN. SHEAFFE TO SECRETARY FREER

(Military Posts)

York 8th April 1813

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge your letters of the 18th 24th & 25th of March

His Excellency's reply to the memorial from the Western District has been forwarded to Mr. Pattinson member of that district, who was the bearer of it.—

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Ensign Empey's petition is sent down to Colonol MacDonell, who is directed to report on it, or to employ a court of Inquiry for that purpose according to the circumstances of the case. —

Instructions have been sent to B. General Procter respecting Captain Roberts' demands;—

I had addressed a letter on the same subject to Head Quarters; it goes by this opportunity; you will also receive an explanation by it about the money for the Indians.—

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient humble Servant R. H. Sheaffe m. Genl &c—

Noah Freer Esq.— M. Genl

Library of Congress

[C 515-p 24.]

BRIG. GEN. PROCTOR TO MAJ. GEN. SHEAFFE (*War—1812*)

Sandwich April 13th 1813

Sir ,

Much dissatisfaction and occasional Irregularity having arisen from the Troops not being regularly paid, owing to the Officers paying Companies not being able to procure money for their bills, I beg leave to urge the necessity of moneys1 being sent to the D. A. Commissary General here adequate to the regular payment of the Troops. Circumstances have unfortunately placed the soldier here in the power of the Shop or Storekeepers here, and of which they take every advantage in each article of necessaries which are of most exorbitant prices already and in such hands will daily become more so. I have to observe that it is very remarkable how totally cash has disappeared in this District, and that it would not answer any good purpose to send another supply.

1 Deputy commissary general Couche's troubles to get money from the war chest. Couche asked for specie or government currency as long ago as July 30th 1812, and with scant results.

I have the honor to be &c &c &c (Signed) Henry Proctor Brig Genl Commg

To Major General Sir Roger H. Sheaffe Bt &c &c &c

A true Copy Robert R. Loring A. D. C.

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RETURN

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Return of Small Arms in charge of the Field Train Department in the several Posts in Lower & Upper Canada

Quebec 13th April 1813

Amherstburg. Michilimackinac. S R U S R U English 63 64 Musquets French 1285 377 179 Carbines 85 Rifles 26 6 Pistols 19 Ball Pieces 15

Larratt Smith A. Comiss & Pay M.

Certified George Glasgow Maj. R. A.

To His Excellency The Commander of the Forces.

[Freer papers, 1812–13. p 166.]

BRIG. GEN. PROCTER TO MAJ. GEN. SHEAFFE

(*War—1812*)

Sandwich April 17th 1813

“If I tamely permit the Enemy to wait his reinforcements and mature his plans, he will become too formidable, I have therefore resolved to endeavor to cripple him, without any further delay than is requisite to have the Co-operation of Tecumthe four or five days. I most heartily wish Mr. R. Dickson was here but I fear it may be some time ere he can come in this direction, for from some mistake, or neglect, half the Socque Nation1 have been thrown into the hands of the Enemy, who have not been idle, or 35

1 The Sauk, most frequently called the Sacs and Foxes; allied tribes of the Fox river country Wisconsin.

 sparing of their money in bribery at least. We cannot send Pork to Capt. Roberts, indeed more will be wanted here than can be procured.

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signed Henry Proctrr Brigr Genl. Comg

To Major Genl Sir Roger H. Sheaffe Bt True Copy Robt R. Loring . A. D. C.

[C 678-p 230.]

MAJ. GEN. SHEAFFE TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

York 19th April 1813

Sir ,

I have the honor of transmitting to Your Excellency the copy of a letter which I have received from Mr. Dickson, with extracts of letters from Brigadier Generals Vincent and Procter, and the copy of one from Captain Johnston of the 49th Regiment respecting Lieut. Dudley of the United States Navy lately taken prisoner,—he and his companions have not yet arrived here;—they must be detained here a short time, as all the boats I can procure will be employed in bringing up troops, stores and baggage—One company of the King's Regiment has proceeded to Fort George, a half company arrived last night, and goes on to-day, and I expect a company (Captain Goldrick's) at noon—which will also proceed to-day; and five boats go down the Lake to bring up the Militia Clothing (which I have just learnt has been left about seventy Miles from hence) and also to furnish aid to the troops on their March.—

I have for some time daily expected the arrival of Colonel Young having been informed by Lieut Kerr of the Glengary corps that he was to come on without delay for Fort George, but I have the mortification of being told to-day that he is to remain at Kingston until his Regiment has passed that post.—I have however consolation for being so long detained

here, in the belief that it has proved in some degree beneficial to the Service:—I have written to Colonel Young to hasten his progress towards me.

Captain Norton1 is here, and is so urgent for my assent to his going back to Detroit, pleading that he had engaged his word to the Indians there for

1 Norton; the Indian chief Snipe, uncommonly eager to push the campaign.

275 his speedy return, that I cannot withhold it, he promises not to stay long away from me, but I part with him, even for a short time, with great reluctance.

I have the honor to be, with great respect Your Excellency's most obedient humble servant, R. H. Sheaffe M. Genl &c

His Excellency Sir George Prevost &c &c &c

[C 678-p 170.]

BRIG. GEN. PROCTOR TO MAJ. GEN. SHEAFFE

(*Extracts of a letter dated Sandwich April 3d 1813*)

“The Enemy are at the foot of the Rapids—their strength I have not been able exactly to ascertain, but they are well provided with Artillery, and some 18prs also Howitzers, they have an hundred artillerists with three officers. Tecumthe is I have reason to believe on the way here, I have directed some Provisions to be sent to meet him”

Extract from a Letter from Genl Proctor Sandwich 9th April

“The Enemy are at the Foot of the Rapids of the Miami, as a already Reported. General Harrison has returned to them.1 Of Tecumthe I have not heard lately.

1 See appendix.

(Signed) Henry Proctor brigr Genl Comg

True Extracts Robert R. Loring A. D. C.

[C 678-p 167.]

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RETURN

Embarkation Return of the Western Army, Commanded by Brig. General Procter on an Expedition to the Miamies, Amherstburg 23d April 1813.1

1 See appendix.

Vessels Names. General Staff Roy Artillery 41st Regiment. Roy Newf'd Regiment Commist Field Train Militia General Lieut Colonel Dy Asst Qr Mr. Gl. Brigade Major Staff Adjutant Lieutenant Serjeant Surgeon Drummer Rank & Fle Captain, Royal Engrs. 10th Royl Vetn. Battn. Captains Lieutenants Ensigns Asst. Surgeon Serjeants Drumrs. & Bugrs. Rank & File Captains Lieutenants Serjeants Drummers Rank & File Depy. Asst. Coms Gl Asst. to do. Issuer Clerk of Stores Conductor Majors Captains Lieutenants Ensigns Adjutant Pay Master Qr Master Surgeon Serjeants Rank & Fle Lady Prevost 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 4 2 80 1 Genl. Hunter Indian Department Chippewa 1 2 30 Mary 1 1 1 2 1 5 2 100 1 Nancy 1 27 1 2 2 3 2 49 1 1 1 1 Miamis 1 3 20 Eliza Gun bt 5 1 3 1 72 3 Col. Myers do 1 3 1 72 3 Batteaux 1 12 11 8 1 1 22 406 Totals 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 27 1 5 3 7 1 22 6 374 1 2 3 2 55 1 1 1 1 1 1 12 11 8 1 1 22 406

Indian Warriors led by Tecumseth. 1200

A true copy Noah Freer Military Secretary

(Sign'd) Edwd Baynes Adj. Genl. N. A.

[C 678—p 253.]

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Return of Killed, Wounded, Missing and Prisoners of the Army under the Command of Brig: General Procter, at the Battle, fought at the Miamis, 5th May 1813

Killed Wounded Missing Prisoners Corps Captains Lieutenants Ensigns Serjeants Drummers Rank & File Captains Lieutenants Ensigns Serjeants Drummers Rank & File Captains Lieutenants Ensigns Serjeants Drummers Rank & File Captains Lieutenants Ensigns Serjeants Drummers Rank & File Royal artillery 1 1 2 41st Regiment 11 1 3 35 2 1 1 33 Royl Newf'dl'd Regt 1 2 1 1 Militia 1 4 1 Totals 1 13 1 1 4 41 2 1 1 37

(Sign'd) Edward Baynes Adjt. Genl. N. A.

A true copy Noah Freer Military Secretary

[C 678-p 254.]

278

Return of Officers Non-Commissioned, officers and Privates taken Prisoners from the Enemy on 5th May 1813 at the Battle of the Miamis

United States Regulars. 10th & 13th Detacht Kentucky Militia. Prisoners since delivered by the Indians. Leiut Colonels Majors Captains Lieutenants Ensigns Serjeants Drummers Rank & File Lieut Colonels Majors Brigade Inspectors Captains Lieutenants Ensigns Adjutant Pay Master Surgeon Asst ditto Serjeants Drummers Rank & File Majors Captains Lieutenants Ensigns Adjutants Paymaster Surgeon Asst Ditto Serjeants Rank & File Grand Total 1 21 2 1 8 9 6 1 1 1 1 26 3 373 1 1 12 547

N. B. There are a number of prisoners not yet come in who are in the possession of the Indians, but they are bringing them in daily.—

Peter L. Chambers Major & Captain 41st Regt D. A. Q. M. Gl.

Since the above Return was made out more than eighty Prisoners have been brought by the Indians.1

1 Apparently he has added 79 to the “grand total 548” in the column; the grand total, correctly footed, makes 468; plus 79 is 547.

H. Procter B. Genl Comg.

[C 678-p 272.]

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MODE OF PAYING OFFICERS

(*Indians*)

Indian Department, Upper Canada.

Present Mode of paying the officers of the Indian Department in the Western District.

A Pay List due monthly.

1st Signed by the Supt. of Indian Affairs at Amherstburg (Colonel Elliott)

2ndly Approved by the Commanding Officer of that Post.

3dly Transmitted to the Head of the Dept in the Province (Colonel Claus) and signed by him.

4thly Sent to the Assistant Secy. (Captain Cameron) who examines & enters & signs as having done both.

5th The asst. Secy. lays it before the Person administering the Government for his final approval, which authorizes the payment, which, since the office of paymaster of contingencies has been discontinued here, has usually been made by the officer of the Commissariat at the Post of York.

Proposed Alteration in the mode of paying of officers of the Indian Department in the Western District.

At the expiration of each period of payment the Pay List to be made out and transmitted in triplicate as usual.

A Fourth Pay List with the signatures of Indian Affairs & Commg officer at Amherstburg & approved by Brig. Genl. Procter, or officer commanding the District, to be lodged with the Senior officer of the Commissariat at that Post, who is to be instructed to pay those of the Indian Department whose signatures to the acknowledgement of Receipt are inserted in the Pay List when delivered to him, and also those who having been absent on duty or otherwise shall afterwards present themselves at his office to sign it—such persons having a certificate from the senior officer present of the Indian Dept. that they are the officers designated in the Pay List for the Period & are entitled to receive the sums entered therein opposite to their respective name.

Quebec 3d May 1813.

Approved By His Excellency's Command

Noah Freer , Mily. Secy.

[C 257-p 73.]

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STATEMENT OF MILITIA CAPTAINS

(*War—1812*)

Camp, Miamis 6th May 1813

Sir

We the undersign'd officers of the first, and second Regiments of Essex, and Kent Militia, beg leave to state to you, as head of the Militia, our opinion, on the present circumstances of the Militia-men, and of the District in General.

From the situation of our District last Fall, but very short crops of Grain were put in the Ground, and these, small as they were, will be render'd still less, by the unfavorableness of the last Winter: Under these unfavorable appearances, the Farmer had only the resource left, of putting in crops of Spring Wheat, and should they be kept here any longer, that of corn will also be out of their power, and the consequence must be a famine next winter. Indeed the men are now detain'd with the greatest reluctance, some have already gone and we are apprehensive that it will not be in our power to detain them much longer.

We have the honor to be Your obedient humble servants

(Sign'd)

Wm. Shaw Captain, Kent Militia

Wm. Caldwell, Captain, 1st Regt, Essex

Geo. Jacob Captain, Kent Militia

Wm. Buchanan Captain 1st Essex Do

John Dolson Captain, Kent Riflemen

Wm. Elliott, Captain, Essex Militia

Wm. Sterling, Captain, Kent Do

Jas: Askin, Captain, 2nd Essex Do

A true copy Noah Freer Military Secretary

[C 678-p 255.]

SAMUEL M'KEEHAN TO LIEUT. DUDLEY

(*War—1812*)

Montreal Prison 6th May 1813

Sir

I am an unfortunate American who was taken by the Indians on my way to Malden with a Flag of Truce from General Harrison on the night of 15th of 281 Jany, and after a variety of indignaties too tedious to mention, I was brought here and put into the dungeon for 33 days—and have been upon the center floor a week—I wish to see you if possible, and have your advice &c. &c.

In haste yours &c Saml McKeehan

Surgeons Mate 2nd Reg. 2nd Brig Ohio Militia

[C 690-p 104.]

MEMORIAL

(*Northwest*)

To His Excellency Sir George Prevost Baronet Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over the Provinces of Lower Canada, Upper Canada &c: General and Commander of all His Majesty's Forces in the said Provinces—&c: &c: &c:—

The Memorial of the Subscribers Partners of the South West Fur Company, and representing the said Company, on behalf of themselves and others—Humbly sheweth,

That at the Capture of Michilimackinac last summer, private property was respected, and an article to that effect made part of the capitulation.

That after the said capture some vessels bearing the American flag arrived at that post from Chicago on Lake Michigan, having on board a number of Packs of Furs & Skins, part whereof belonged to the Government of the United States, but the greater part were private property:—That of the latter part actually belonged to British Subjects, Traders with the Indians, and the rest although nominally the property of Traders who are American Citizens, yet being indebted to the South West Fur Company and to others who are British Subjects, the same were and are substantially British property inasmuch as if the same were made prize of British Subjects would be the real sufferers, those Packs being the proceeds of Merchandise sold by His Majesty's Subjects to Traders, and sent in by those vessels to Michilimackinac, in pursuance of agreement, for payment of debts.

That upon the Surrender of those vessels from Chicago, some doubts having arisen as to the effect of such surrender (not being included in the capitulation of Michilimackinac) upon the right of property in the Furs and Skins on board, which did not belong to the Government of the United States; an agent was appointed by the officer commanding, and Bonds were given to him, by the Individuals who claimed Furs and Skins not public 36 282 property; or by those who represented such individuals, and to whom the Packs were delivered, to abide by such decision as should be legally given thereon.

The memorialists after laying before Your Excellency the above plain Statement of facts, take the liberty of observing, that under all the circumstances of the case, and of the nature of the Trade and intercourse for some years past in that Country; and the unprecedented losses which British Subjects and Traders there have sustained, as likewise considering the very meritorious part acted by them at all times in preventing

Indian attachment, and especially in aid of the measures which produced the surrender of Michilimackinac, there cannot exist any legal or fair grounds for seizure or condemnation as prize, of any Furs or Skins so situated, not being the property of the Government of the United States—and that were there even a doubt thereon, the scale should turn in favor of private right, particularly as no competent court for the decision of the question (if litigated) exists, and the British Subjects are the persons who will be naturally benefited or injured thereby.

The memorialists in Consequence, respectfully submit, that it is His Majesty who is the paramount proprietor of all prizes where such legally exist, and especially of all property detained, before war is declared by His Authority, and consequently, that Your Excellency as His Representative can alone give relief in the premises, and therefore they humbly pray, that Your Excellency will be pleased to give an order and instruction to the officer commanding at Michilimackinac, that all Furs and Skins, not the property of the government of the United States, shall be given up to the private proprietors thereof, or their Representatives; and that in cases where such Furs and Skins have been already delivered up, but upon Bonds for abiding the issue of a decision, then all such bonds shall be given up and cancelled; And as in duty bound the memorialists will ever pray &c.

Forsyth Richardson & Co

McTavish McGillivray & Co1

1 See appendix.

Montreal 7th May 1813.

[C 363-p 64]

SAML McKEEHAN TO LIEUT DUDLEY

Montreal Prison 9th May 1813

Sir .

Yesterday Sir Georges aid came and informed me that the Nature of my confinement had been contrary to his orders and Colonel Lethbridge was required to restore me my liberty.

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I was also informed that you and myself would probably in a few days be sent to the United States.—

Colonel Lethbridge told me he would send for me at 3 O'clock and take my parole.—
In less than one hour Major Singleton called and said the Governor after more Mature consideration had concluded he could not let me have my liberty, until he heard from General Proctor.—

Two or three days after my imprisonment Major Shackleton told me that General Proctor had promised with the best dispatches to send on all the papers relating to my case and then I would have a hearing.

So you may see punishment by torture is not yet abolished. If they had drove a dagger through my heart my punishment would have been much less and their compassion much greater.

Yours &c. &c. Saml McKeehan

Major Shakleton also told me that Coll Baynes was unauthorized to tell me what he did.

MAJ. GEN. SHEAFFE TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston 8th May 1813

Sir ,

I have the honor of transmitting some documents which will furnish your Excellency with information of transactions which have occurred at York since the retreat from thence.—I have not been able yet to collect all the details that I wish to accompany my official report, I therefore withold it till the return of Captain Milnes, who is himself desirous of remaining here a little longer, and I also wish it, with the hope of his conveying a confirmation of a report that General Harrison has been taken by Tecumthsek:—Captain Swassey was dispatched to me by B. General Vincent after he had heard of the loss of York, and arrived here a day or two since:—on his way to the Head of the Lake from Fort George he met a person travelling express to that place from Amherstburgh, who informed him that Tecumthseh had attacked General Harrison at the head of three hundred men, the advanced corps of a reinforcement on its way to join his army which he had left intrenched near the foot of the Rapids, and that he was taken and his men “cut to pieces”:—at the head of the Lake he met a Doctor Graham who resides in that vicinity and who was on his return from Dolson's on the River Thames, where he saw an Indian who said he had 284 been in the action, and related the same circumstances that Captain Swassey had before heard:—it was further related that B. General Proctor had taken the field with five hundred troops of the line, two hundred militia, and fourteen hundred Indians with an intention of attacking the corps near the foot of the rapids before the junction of their expected reinforcements.

From our latest accounts from York it appears that the Americans intended to abandon it—it is said that they confessed they did not expect half the resistance they met with, and that the possession of York had cost them dearly: they were very much mortified at my escaping from them, there are a few men still on their way down.—Mr. Plucknett with forty or fifty of the Dockyard have arrived yesterday some more are coming.—Correct returns of the casualties have not been received yet.—the total loss in killed, wounded and

missing amounts to one hundred and fifty or perhaps more—of which the proportion of the King's Regiment may be about one half—Lieut De Koven remained at York wounded in the foot, and Captain Loring, and Ensign Rolins of the Glengary corps were injured by the explosion of the magazine the latter is again quite well, but Captain Loring still feels some inconvenience from his hurt.

Captains Barclay,1 Pring, and Finnis, and four naval Lieutenants have arrived;—It will no doubt give your Excellency great satisfaction to learn that they are much pleased with their vessels—Captain Barclay has taken the new ship, and Captains Pring and Finnis are appointed to the Royal George and the Morice.

1 See appendix.

Captain Gray at the desire of Captain Barclay, is acting as a kind of Commissioner to the Dock yard. There is yet much to be done here for the defence of the place and shipping—a report on which will be transmitted by Captain Milnes.—

I have had the honour of receiving your Excellency's letters of the 21st and 22d of April—the three militia men under sentence of a General court martial shall be sent down by an early opportunity. I thank your Excellency for the suggestion of reporting to the Secretary of State and to the Treasury the causes of the increased expenditure—Lieut Colonel Hughes of the Royal Engineers has arrived from York, I have communicated to him your Excellency's sentiments on his tardy progress to his post, and I have repeated my endeavours to rouse him to a sense of the necessity for the utmost diligence and activity in his department, from all which a beneficial effect seems to have been produced;—his wife and family were left at York.

I have issued an order calling on the several departments connected with 285 the marine to contribute their utmost efforts towards accelerating the progress of the naval preparations.

I have the honour to be Your Excellency's

Most respectfully devoted, humble Servant, R. H. Sheaffe , M. Genl. &c &c

His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bt. &c &c &c

[C 678-p 221.]

EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS

(*War—1812*)

An Agreement for the exchange of Prisoners made between Brig: Genl. Procter, Commanding His Britannic Majestys Forces in the Miamis, and Maj: Genl. Harrison, Commanding the North Western Army of the United States.

The Prisoners of the Kentucky Militia, now in possession of General Procter, to be sent to the River Huron, upon the condition of not serving against Great Britain, or her Allies, during the War between that Power, and the United States.—Captain Price of the First Regiment, United States light Artillery, and twenty Regulars of the United States Army, now in possession of Genl. Procter will be consider'd as exchanged, and permitted to serve after the termination of one month.

Lieut. McIntire, and Hailes of the 41st Regt and thirty nine Privates are also to be exchanged, but are not to serve, except in Garrison Duty, until the expiration of one month.

A return of Prisoners released on each side, to be furnished to the respective Commissaries of each Nation, and the surplusage to be accounted for in a future settlement of the Account of Prisoners, agreably to the Tarif of Exchange, heretofore established.

(sign'd) Henry Procter , Col: Commg. His Britannic Majesty's Forces on the Miamis.—

(sign'd) Wm Hy Harrison , Maj: Genl. Commg. the North Western Army of the United States.—

A true copy Noah Freer Military Secretary

Head Quarters Camp, Miamis 9th May 1813

[C 678-p 250.]

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EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS

(*War—1812*)

Brig: Genl. Procter proposes to Maj. Genl Harrison to send out of 3 the American Lines, the Wyandots, Senecas and Delawares of Sandusky in exchange for an equal Number of Kentucky Militia.

(Sign'd) Henry Proctor

Brig: Genl and Commg His Majesty's Forces on the Miamis.—

Major General Harrison , can only refer to His Government the proposition made to him by Brig: Genl Proctor, to send out of the American 4 Lines, the Wyandots, Senecas and Delawares of Sandusky, in Exchange for an equal Number of Kentucky Militia.

He assures General Proctor however, that he will make that reference at an early date, & communicate the result.

(Sign'd) Henry Harrison

Maj: General Commg the North Western Army of the United States.

A true copy Noah Freer Military Secretary

[C 678-p 252.]

G. H. ROGERS TO LIEUT. DUDLEY

(*War—1812*)

Montreal Goal 12th May 1813

Sir

I am requested by Doct McKeehan to inform you of his present unpleasant Situation—he is at this time so unwell as to be confined to his bed—and have no chance of getting anything to make himself comfortable—

No person attends him, to examine our situations nor neither have we a chance to send after any necessarys that we want.—

I am confident the Docts case requires some very speedy aid, particularly as it respects his confined situation.

Yours Respectfully George H. Rogers U. S. Army

[C 690-p 106]

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EARL BATHURST TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Downing Street 12 May 1813

Sir

Mr. Gordon has laid before me the copy of a General order on the Subject of the Exchange of the American officers taken at Detroit, which was issued to you at Quebec on the 8th Feb & which has been transmitted to him by Mr. Brenton1 in consequence of your directions.

1 Col. E. B. Brenton, principal secretary to Sir George Prevost, who countersigned Prevost's proclamations, and to whom communications from subordinate commanders were frequently addressed.

You will observe by the enclosed letter addressed to the Commr. of the Transport Board by the British agent for prisoners of war at Halifax, that you had been led into an error with respect to the exchange of a Detachment of the Royal Scots for the crew of the United States Ship “Nautilus,” That arrangements never took place in consequence of the Refusal of the American Government to ratify it & their wish to adopt the other subsequently approved at Halifax by Sir Jno. Warren, of exchanging the crew of “the Genevieve” for those of the Wasp and Nautilus.

The measure however to which you have resorted of sending Major Murray with a Flag of Truce to the American Head Quarters will clear up the difficulties which have arisen from your not having received information of the arrangements which had been made at Halifax.

With respect to the other part of the General order which refers to the right assumed by the American Government of arranging exchanges in such manner as may suit their Convenience without waiting for a Ratification—I have only to express my entire approbation of the Protest which you have entered against such a mode of proceeding and my concurence in the Rules & Principles laid down by you for the Regulation of Exchanges.

It was impossible to overlook the injustice of the American Government in assuming to themselves the power of liberating prisoners on Parole without the concurrence of the British Authorities, more especially as they had in their own case, freely exercised this right by annulling the Exchange which took place between the crew of “the Nautilus” & the Detachment of the Royal Scots.

I trust that you will find no difficulty in satisfying the American Government thro' the medium of General Dearborn of the Justice & Expediency of adhering to the known & established Principles upon which Exchanges have always been carried on between civilized nations. Should they therefore decline admitting the Principle that mutual consent of both Governments is necessary to the Ratification of an Exchange, it will be for you, either by sending to this country, or by retaining in the Province under your Command, 288 such Prisoners as may hereafter be taken, effectually to curb the Exercise of that discretion which the American Government seem disposed to assume.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient Humble Servant Bathurst .

To Lieut General Sir Geo. Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 689-p 52.]

EARL BATHURST TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Downing Street 13 May 1813.

Sir ,

I have forborne to make any observation upon the subject of your Dispatch, No 21, because I was not aware until after the sailing of the last Packet that the Government would be required to take any other measures respecting the British Subjects, captured in

the American Army at Detroit, than those which had been recommended in Col. Bayne's letter to Genl Glasgow1 of 3rd Nov. 1812.

1 Major General George Glasgow of the Royal Artillery, chief ordnance officer under Prevost.

As I was induced to hope that they had compulsarily borne arms against H. M. & were willing by their future alligiance to atone for their past delinquency, I felt no difficulty in directing an offer of Pardon to be made to them on condition of their entering for General Service. They have unanimously declined accepting this offer. H. M's Government are reduced to the alternative, either of admitting that British Subjects may with impunity bear arms against His Majesty or of bringing these Persons to trial for the offence of which they appear to have been guilty—Under these circumstances it is impossible to hesitate as to the Line of Conduct which it is right to adopt, and their trials are only deferred until the necessary evidence can be produced to censure their conviction. I have to request that you will take the earliest opportunity of sending to this country in some ship of war such evidences as may be able to prove the facts of their having been found in arms against His Majesty, and of their voluntary confession of being British Subjects. I have in the present instance preferred retaining the Individuals in this Country to sending them to Canada for 289 Trial, because under the circumstances of their being already in England, I have thought it would prove to be the mode least inconvenient to the Public Service. But I have to desire that on all future Occasions, in which Prisoners, similarly situated, may fall into your Power, you would take on the Spot the necessary Measures for their Disposal, and not send them to this country, where there is no proof as to the Degree of Criminalty, which they have incurred, and where, in the Event of its being necessary to bring them to trial, no evidence whatever can be produced of the crime imputed to them.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient Humble Servant, Bathurst .

To Lieut General Sir George Prevost &c. &c. &c.

Library of Congress

[C 689-p 55.]

MAJOR CHAMBERS TO SECRETARY FREER

(*War—1812*)

Amherstburg 13th May 1813

Sir

I have not had an opportunity of doing myself the Honor of writing to you since 15th April last. I shall give you a concise account of our operations at the Miamis.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Most obedt humble Servant Peter L. Chambers Major D. A. Q. M. General

Noah Freer Esquire Military Secretary

Saturday 24th April 1813

Sailed from hence at 10 O'Clock A. M. Same night arrived at the Miamis, disembark'd the next day and encamped at Point au Chene. 26th Went to the Foot of the Rapids to reconiter the Enemy's position, and decided for the situation of the Batterys. The Enemy appeared to be in numbers, a 37 290 large quantity of Pigs, Horses and Cattle were driven in by the Enemy on discovering us. Tecumthe and his Brother the Prophet arrived and 11 or 1200 Indians.—

27 Embarked and arrived at Swan Creek 4 miles from Point au Chene, held a Council with the Indians. Plan of operations agreed upon. 12 oClock left Swan Creek and Encamped at a small River about 4 miles from the old British Fort 28 Left this Encampment and encamped at the Old British Fort. The Indians cross'd to the Enemy's side and kill'd a number of Hogs & Bullocks, took several Horses—from under the very Guns of the Fort.

Extremely engaged all Day in Transporting our Stores for the intended Batteries. 29 A number of Shawonies, Winabagoes Kickapoos killed several Pigs and Oxen under the Enemys Guns. 8 o'Clock P. M. all hands to the 24 Pdrs and after a hard struggle succeeded in transporting them to the Batteries (which were this day compleated) In the course of the night got up an 8 Inch Howitzer and all the platforms except two the two 12 Pons and two Sixes two 5½ inch Mortars were all taken up

30th I accompanied Lt Colonel Warburton1 and made a reconnissance on the Enemy's side approached so near to their Fort that the Rifflemen fired several shot at us. I fired one shot at a number I perceived together with my Riffle (one that General Brock presented me with)

1 See appendix.

Four Ottawa Boys intercepted the Sandusky Mail, it was guarded by three men who fled as soon as the Boys fired, the Eldest Boy was only fourteen years of age.

7 o'clock Pill went on Board the Myers Gun Boat and in company with the Eliza ascended the River about half a mile fired a shot from the 9 Pounder every half hour the enemy did not fire a shot at us.

1st May 10 oclock A. M. On a signal fired from the Myers the Batteries opened, consisted of one Battery of 2–24 Pounders and one 8 Inch Howitzer—One Mortar D of 2–5½ inch, one Battery of two 12 Pounders and a Battery called the Sailors of one 12 Pounder—We expected great effect from our Guns, we were much disappointed the Enemy had thrown up an Empailment which in a great measure sheltered them from our fire, and there were a great number of Traverses within their Fort. The Enemy fired occasionally at us without doing any injury.

2d May. One Battery still kept up a heavy fire, The Enemy as yesterday sparing of his Shot. The Huron Indians brought in a Prisoner one of a party charged with Dispatches to General Harrison. The officer who had charge of it escaped.

3d May I ascended the river as far as the Pettawattomie Village 15 miles from our Camp. On my return the Shawonies and Roundhead were much 291 dissatisfied with ineffectual fire of our Batteries—A Battery of one 6 Pounder one 5½ Inch Howitzer and one 5½ inch Mortar was constructed within 300 yards of the Enemys Fort. This day Captain Bullock the Grenadiers & light Infantry was sent to protect our Batteries, still keeping up a heavy fire without any effect.

4 May One Battery on both sides of the River keeping up all this day a heavy fire.—

5 May 8 o'clock A. M. Intelligence was brought in that the Enemy were Landing Immediately ordered up to the Battery and found them in possession of the Enemy, after some time the Enemy were driven out and in about three hours from the time of their landing they surrendered. It is with regret I state that a dreadfull slaughter commenced on the arrival of the Prisoners at our Encampment, the Indians could not be repressed, one of our men was shot in the act of saving the Prisoners, by great exertions we succeeded in sending 4 or 5 hundred Prisoners on board the vessels. I went over with a Flag of Truce, was blind folded and taken into the Fort. I saw General Harrison. He released our officers and men who had been made Prisoners that day and treated them with marked politeness.1

1 Good for Harrison. This circumstantial account of Major Chambers is an excellent report of the results of the five days work.

An arrangement entered into for the Exchange of Prisoners from this period until we left the Ground the Militia and Indians leaving us hourly until our force was reduced to Ten Indians including Tecumthe and very few of the Militia.

We got off every article not a single Round shot left behind.

From the best information I can collect the number of the Enemy that landed was 1300 and from their own Letters only 141 escaped so the loss of the Enemy on that Day was about 700 killed and about 500 Prisoners.

P. L. Chambers Major D. A. Q. M. Gl.

[C 678-p 244.]

BRIG. GEN. PROCTER TO COL. BAYNES

(*War—1812*)

Sandwich May 14th 1813

Sir

I beg to acquaint you for the information of His Excellency the commander of the forces that the Insufficiency of the Barrack Furniture here, especially Bedding, and cooking utensils is very great, and that those Articles are not to be procured here. The entire want of camp equipage, kettles in 292 particular, has been severely felt. The Irregularity and uncertainty which occurs here, in the Payment of the Troops are realy injurious to the Service, as I have before stated; as well as the same evil in the Payment of the Indian Department here, Officers paying companies cannot procure money for their Bills on Montreal, and the commissary does not receive money adequate to the several disbursements. I have also to mention that clothing is very much wanted, also necessaries for which the materials are not here. These circumstances have, most of them, been already stated, and are now mentioned, as I am ignorant where Sir R. H. Sheaffe is, merely to have them remedied as opportunities may offer. It is proper to mention that from peculiar circumstances no Blame can attach to the Officers of the 41st Regt generally for a

Deficiency or want even of necessaries for the men. I have ascertained the Insufficiency of the Commissariat Establishment here, in clerks, two more being requisite. Messrs Gilmore & Reynolds have my Testimony to their Zeal & Diligence. The former has been several times ill from anxiety and Fatigue. Clerks cannot be procured here. I have the honor to be

Sir Your Obedient humble Servant Henry Proctor Brig. General Comg.

Colonel Baynes Adjutant General Quebec

[C 678-p 257.]

COL. MYERS TO SECRETARY FREER

(*War—1812*)

Fort George May 14, 1813

Sir

I have had the Honor to receive your Letters of the 22d and 26th April, you will please to acquaint His Excellency the Commander of the Forces that due attention shall be paid to their contents, I have in a Letter yesterday, explained to the Adjutant General the circumstances which will delay for the present my departure for Kingston.

Amongst the Papers captured near Detroit in July last, belonging to General Hull, there was a Letter or Memoir of his addressed, I think, to the American Secretary at War, this Paper I understood developed much of the Plan of attack and the views of the Enemy for the conquest1 of Upper

1 This is confirmatory evidence of the military value of the papers captured from Hull.

293 Canada, it was forwarded to the Commander of the Forces, & I heard from Lt. Col. Glegg that he, as aide de camp to the late Major General Brock, was in possession of a

copy of it, deeply as I now feel interested in the success of the Kings Arms, & every energy of my mind being alive to aid in the defense of this country, I repeatedly requested Lt Col. Glegg to give me a copy of the Document in question, or allow me even a perusal of it—he hitherto evaded either, & this morning I again made application to him on the subject, I received for answer “That motives of personal esteem would induce him to afford me the requested information privately,” but he implied that it must be in rather a clandestine way, as the document was confidentially entrusted to him by the late Genl Brock,

as the station I have the Honor to hold in this army I conceived entitled me officially to the possession of the information I asked for, as I could look upon Lt. Col. Glegg having the Paper, in no other light than as the aide de camp of the late Genl Brock, & that as a Document containing the views of our Enemys, it was but fair and proper that those who stood in prominent situations in defence of this province, should be acquainted with these views, I confess I felt hurt at Lt Col. Glegg withholding this Document from me, and therefore I declined receiving it from him, as he was pleased to say, as a *private favour* , you will be pleased to do me the Honor to bring the circumstances I state before the Commander of the Forces, and I feel a confident hope that His Excellency will do me the favor to comply with my submissive request, that I may be put in possession of a copy of this interesting document from your office.

I have the honor to be Dr Sir Your most ob St Christo Myers Col Actg Q. M. Gl

Noah Freer Esqre Mil Sec &c &c

[C 678-p 246.]

BRIG. GEN. PROCTOR TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Sandwich May 14th 1813.

Sir

The usual communication being interrupted by the Capital of the Province being in the possession of the Enemy1 I have judged it expedient to make a direct Report to Your Excellency of our operations and present state in this District. In the expectation of being able to reach the Enemy,

1 The Capital was York, (Toronto).

294 who had taken Post near the Foot of the Rapids of the Miami, before the Reinforcement and Supplies could arrive for which only he waited to commence active operations against us, I determined to attack him without Delay, and with every means in my Power: but from the necessary Preparations and some untoward circumstances it was not in my Power to reach him within three weeks of the Period I had proposed, and at which he might have been captured or destroyed. From the incessant and heavy Rains we experienced and during which our Batteries were constructed, it was not until the morning of the 1st Inst. the fifth day after our Arrival at the Mouth of the River, 12 miles from the Enemy, that our Batteries could be opened. Illness from excessive Fatigue deprived me of the services early of the only Artillery Officer, on an occasion, when three would have found Ample employment. The Enemy who occupied several acres of commanding Ground strongly defended by Block houses and Batteries well furnished with Ordnance, had during our approach so completely entrenched, and covered himself as to render unavailing every Effort of our Artillery tho well served and in Batteries most judiciously placed, and constructed under the able Direction of Captain Dixon of the Royal Engineers, of whose ability and unwearied zeal, shown particularly on this occasion, I cannot speak too highly. Tho' our Attack has not answered the purpose intended. I have the Satisfaction to inform your Excellency of the fortunate Results of an attack of the Enemy, aided by a Sally of most of their Garrison, made on the Morning of the 5th Inst. by a Reinforcement, which descended the River, a considerable Distance in a very short Time, consisting of two corps of Kentucky Militia, Dudley's and Boswells, amounting to

1300 men, under the Command of Brigr General Green Clay. The attack was very sudden, and on both sides of the River. The Enemy were for a few minutes in possession of our Batteries, and took some Prisoners. After a severe contest tho' not of long continuance, the Enemy gave way and excepting the Body of those who Sallied from the Fort, must have been mostly killed or taken. In this decisive affair, the Officers & men of the 41st Regiment who charged and routed the Enemy near the Batteries well maintained the long established Reputation of the Corps. Where all deserve Praise it is difficult to distinguish. Captain Muir an old Officer who has seen much Service, had the good Fortune to be in the immediate Command of these branches. Besides my obligations to Captain Chambers for his unwearied exertions preparatory to, and on the Expedition as D. A. Q. M. G. I have to notice his Gallant Conduct in the Attack of the Enemy near the Batteries, at the Point of the Bayonet, a service in which he was well supported by Lieutenants Bullock 41st Regiment and Le Breton1 of the R.

1 See appendix.

295 N. F. Land Regt. The courage and activity displayed throughout the whole scene of action by the Indian Chiefs & Warriors contributed largely to our Success. I have not been able to ascertain the Amount of Prisoners in Possession of the Indians.1 I have sent off agreeable to the Agreement near 500 Prisoners to the River Huron near Sandusky.2 I have proposed an Exchange, which is referred to the American Government.3 I could not ascertain the Amount of the Enemy's Loss in killed from the Extent of the Scene of Action, and mostly in the Woods. I conceive his Loss to have been between a thousand and twelve hundred Men in Killed and Prisoners. These unfortunate People were not Volunteers, and complete Kentuckys Quota. If the Enemy had been permitted to receive his Reinforcements and Supplies undisturbed I should have had at this critical juncture, to contend with him for Detroit, or perhaps on this shore. I had not the Option or retaining my Situation on the Miamis, if it had appeared to me a judicious measure. The mode in which the Militia turned out raised hopes & Expectations that were very far from being realized in the Sequel. The Day after the enclosed Letter was received half of the Militia

had left us, and the Remainder declared their Determination not to remain longer.4 I also received a Deputation from the Indian Chiefs, counselling me to return as they could not prevent their People, as was their custom after any Battle of Consequence returning to their Villages, with their wounded, their prisoners and Plunder of which they had taken considerable quantity in the Boats of the Enemy. Before the Ordnance could be withdrawn from the Batteries I was left with Tecumthe and less than twenty Chiefs and Warriors. A circumstance which strongly proves, that, under present circumstances at least, our Indian force is not a disposable one, or permanent, tho' occasionally a most powerful aid. I have, however, brought off all the Ordnance, and indeed have not left any Thing behind. Part of the Ordnance was embarked under the Fire of the Enemy. The Service on which we have been employed has been, tho' short, a very severe one, and too much Praise cannot be given to the officers & men for the Cheerfulness with which, on every occasion they met the Service. To Lieut. Colonel Wharburton I feel many obligations for the aid he zealously afforded me on every occasion. From my Brigade Major Lieu. McLean, I received the same zealous assistance as on former occasions. To Captain Mocklet, who acted as my Aide de Camp, I am much indebted for the assistance he afforded me. Lieut Le Breton of the R. N. F. L. Regt. assistant engineer, by his unwearied

1 No. 1.

2 No. 2.

3 No 3 & 4.

4 No. 7. See appendix.

296 exertions rendered essential service, as did also Lieut Gardiner of the 41st Regt from his science in Artillery. The Royal artillery in the laborious Duties they performed displayed their usual unwearied zeal, and were well assisted by the Royal Newfd Land under Lieut Gardiner as additional Gunners. The Laborious Duties which the Marine under the Command of Commodore Hall have performed, have been most cheerfully met, and

the most essential service rendered I have the honor to send an embarkation Return of the Force that served under my Command at the Miamie exclusive of Indians who may be stated at twelve hundred. I also enclose a return of our killed and wounded and Prisoners who have however, been exchanged.1 I had taken upon me to give the Rank of Mayor to the six Captains of the Line as Militia were to be employed on the same Service with them. Some of them are old Officers, all of them deserving. Any mark of your Excellency's approbation of them would be extremely grateful to me. I beg Leave to mention the four Volunteers of the 41st Regiment Wilkinson, Richardson, Laing and Procter as deserving of promotion. Your Excellency will perceive that the Reinforcement you intended I should have long since received, has not been sent; nor do I expect to receive any whilst, any circumstance may seem to justify their Detention, I had only half the 41st Regt. before the late action. Daily Experience more strongly proves that a regular Force is absolutely requisite to ensure the safety of this District, and which may be endangered by the Detention of the intended reinforcement. My Brigade Major Lieut. McLean, who is the Bearer of my Report will be able to give Your Excellency any further Information relative to this District or our late movements that may be required. I hope my sending him and by the only service Route at present, will meet with Your Excellency's approbation

1 See Appendix.

I have the honor to be Sir With the highest respect Your most Obedient Servant Henry Proctor Brig: Genl. Comg.

I beg to acknowledge the indefatigable exertions of the Commissariat.

Henry Proctor B. Genl. Comg.

Lt General Sir George Prevost &c &c Quebec

[C 678-p 261.]

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BRIG. GEN. PROCTOR TO CAPTAIN McDONALL

(*War—1812*)

Sandwich 14 May 1813

My Dear Sir

I shall not say anything to you respecting our visit to Mr. Harrison or of what passed between us, McLean will fully inform you of Particulars. If His Excellency approves I shall be much gratified. I am just sending off an express to Mr. Dickson, and have also to write to Niagara. You will be much surprised to hear that I have received only half the 41st Regiment. If His Excellency does not interfere I shall be kept so weak, as to tempt the Enemy forward. If Sir George's Intentions had been fulfilled I could venture to ensure the safety of this flank for some months at least. Should I be left to the consideration of any Person but Sir George this District will be entered also. You will learn from McLean that I cannot with safety use the Militia. I should be much gratified if Colonel Elliott from his age and long service was permitted to retire on his full pay. He is past seventy I have understood near eighty. I have the pleasure to acquaint you that Tecumthe and his People are settling on the River Huron between the River Raisin and Detroit, the Pottawottamies twenty miles higher up that River, and the Ottawas on the River Rouge between the Huron and Detroit, and that I have ordered the Indian Department to Detroit which will make the Territory completely an Indian country and render its conquest still more difficult if not impossible1 if I can have a due proportion of Regulars, for I repeat it, they cannot be dispensed with. We are anxiously looking to the lower Province, I hope the Fleet is at hand, our Tars will soon set things to rights on the lower Lake, when York must fall to its right owners, tho: I suppose the Enemy are fortifying themselves there, which may cause us much Trouble and lose us many Lives. Excuse haste Mrs and Miss Proctor desire their best compliments, & Harry begs to be kindly remembered to you

1 His plan was to have the Indians occupy the land on the American side along the Detroit river as far south as the River Raisin.

I remain My dear sir faithfully yours Henry Proctor

Captain McDonall &: &: Quebec

[C 678-p. 240] 38

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BRIG. GEN. VINCENT TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Fort George 19th May 1813

Sir

I was this day honored by your Excellency's communication (Duplicate) dated Montreal 7th instant, which was brought by an officer of Militia dispatched by Major General Sheaffe from Kingston.

In expressing my high sense of obligation for so prompt an assurance of support, in my efforts to maintain the independance of this frontier of His Majestys dominions from invasion, I should be wanting in duty and justice to the zeal and energy of those officers who participate so largely in my confidence, were I not to assure Your Excellency, that the flattering assurance held forth in your communication has not only been truly gratifying to our mutual feelings, but has created new energies throughout this command.

Your Excellency will have been apprized thro' my letters to Colonel Baynes, that the American Flotilla after remaining at anchor of this harbor for three days without attempting

any enterprize, proceeded down the lake, and the wind being fair for Sacketts Harbour it is probable its destination was to that place.

Some of the smaller Vessels remained and continued cruizing for several days, between this port and York. and previous to their final departure they landed a party of nearly two hundred men at the Head of the Lake for the express purpose of destroying the Government House and out buildings—The small force stationed there, for the sole purpose of keeping up our communication with York not being sufficiently strong to oppose the landing of that number, their debarkation being covered by the guns in the Vessels—It was deemed prudent to fall back upon the reinforcements which, tho' quickly brought forwards were too late to chastise the morauding acts of an Enemy who have precipitately retreated and avoided a contest—With the exception of an almost constant ostentatious parade of troops artillery and boats immediately in our view on the opposite shore, no event has hitherto occurred deserving of notice on this frontier. Within last few days the enemy has been busily employed in the construction of Batteries opposite to this point with an apparent intention of threatened invasion.

I am happy to assure Your Excellency that the best spirit, Zeal and exertions continues to animate every individual of the Army on this Frontier—and I feel confident that no effort will be wanting to repel invasion whenever 299 it may be attempted, and no exertion will be omitted to prevent the Enemy gaining a footing in this Province.

Lieut Colonel Bisshop is perfectly aware of my ideas, and a plan of cooperation is mutually arranged in the event of that measure becoming necessary—I have considered it expedient to establish a Depot of Ammunition and Provisions in a very central and Commanding position near a place called the Beaver Dam in a stone house belonging to a Captain of Militia who is a loyal and faithful subject.

I have judged it proper to divide the force of this post into three divisions—The right under Lieut Colonel Harvey1 —The left under Colonel Myres and the center under my own

immediate direction, each being so circumstanced as to give the most prompt support to each other—I propose leaving in the Fort a Company of the 49th Regiment—The Guard and Gunners with a portion of the Militia under Colonel Claus and Captain Norton whose anxiety and zeal for the public service is so constantly conspicuous is encamped on my left towards the Lake with about one hundred Indians where it is probable the Enemy might make a descent.

1 See appendix.

With respect to the Militia, It is with regret that I can neither report favorably of their numbers nor of their willing cooperations—Every exertion has been used and every expedient resorted to, to bring them forward and unite their efforts to those of his Majestys Forces with but little effect and desertion beyond all conception continues to mark their indifference to the important cause in which we are now engaged—In considering it my duty, thus to offer a fresh exposition, of my sentiments to Your Excellency, respecting the Militia of this province, I must at the same time express a belief, that when the reinforcements reach this frontier, many of the Inhabitants, who have been for some time wavering and apalled, by the specious force of the Enemys resources, will instantly rally round the standard of their king and country.

Your excellencys condescension in allowing me to point out my wants, calls for my most respectful acknowledgements—impressed with a conviction of the urgency and importance of sending off immediate aid to Brigadier General Proctor, I only await the arrival of the Queen Charlotte at Fort Erie to move a Company and the Head Quarters of the 40th Regiment to Amherstburg, risking this diminution of my force, under a confident persuasion, that reinforcements are near at hand to replace them.

I herewith enclose a return of the Regulars and Militia on this line—

I have the honor to be Sir your obedient humble servant John Vincent Brig. Genl.

His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bt &c &c &c

[C 678-p 301.]

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COLONEL MYERS TO COLONEL BAYNES

(*War—1812*)

Fort George May 20, 1813

My Dear Colonel

Since my letter to you of the 13th matters have remained in nearly the same state.

Brigadier General Vincent yesterday received a letter from Sir George Prevost, and all the accounts which have reached us from Kingston are of the most cheering nature, what has become of Chauncy Heaven knows, we had every reason to expect his return to this offing before now.

Our situation has been so fully detailed to you by Genl Vincent that it leaves me little to say on the subject. You are acquainted with our means, and what is opposed to us, as far as appearances can justify the conclusion, I confess I feel no apprehension for the safety of this position, for some time, & I have no doubt but *help* for us is near at hand, I wrote Gray my ideas as to pushing on troops as far as the carrying place in Batteaux, & we look hourly for the tidings of their approach, by their arrival we shall be enabled to look down the arrogance of the Enemy in this quarter.

I do not think his means have increased since the statement sent you by Genl Vincent, I trust I will be pardoned in most earnestly recommending that a force be sent forward to this Line to enable us to commence offensive operations. It is not wise to hold an Enemy too cheap, but I Cannot divest myself of the idea that the Foe opposite to us 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 flank, I am of opinion it would be an enterprise of little hazard for us to get an establishment on the heights above Lewistown opposite to Queenstown, this once effected, I cannot but feel the strongest confidence that we would in a very short time complete the object so much to be desired, it would be giving such a new turn to the war, that I conceive it would strike a terror into the Enemy which would produce the happiest effects, and would inflict a just punishment on the vainglorious turn which he will give to the disastrous affair at York, I hope I will be excused for thus writing, I confess I do so under feelings of some irritation and impatience for the chastisement of American Arrogance, should offensive operations be decided on here, may I indulge an humble hope that I may be permitted to partake in them.

We are anxiously on the look out for the appearance of some of our vessels. I must not omit acquainting you that the Enemy are said to be building two twenty Gun vessels at Presqu' Isle, on Lake Erie with five Gun 301 Boats, and some smaller, vessels are now rigging behind Squaw Island. I have had no very late accounts from the Dock Yard at Amherstburg, the last were favourable, I am in hourly expectation of hearing of the arrival of the Queen Charlotte at Point Abino,

Nothing further occurs to me to mention at this moment, beyond assuring you that the only sentiment prevading all Ranks here, is the firm determination to bravely oppose all attempt of the Enemy upon this frontier

I have the honor to remain My Dear Colonel Most faithfully yours Christo Myers

Coln Baynes Adgt Genl

[C 678-p 314.]

BRIG. GEN. PROCTOR TO COLONEL MYERS

(*War—1812*)

Sandwich May 23d 1813

My Dear Sir

I had the pleasure of your Letter of the 19th Inst, and am glad to find that the 6th Company and the staff are to be sent here, in the Queen Charlotte now I hope on the Return. When I receive the Remainder of the 41st Regiment, I hope I shall be relieved from the necessity of ever again calling out the Militia, or any portion of it. I may be mistaken, but I do not expect you will be attacked. Your Fleet will bring you a Reinforcement and then they won't venture to try your strength. I think however, our Fleet will have warm work. Captain Chambers will inform you of our wants in the Dock Yard, principally workmen. Our Gun Boats are now idle, for want of hands, we are endeavouring to man one. They might have been made good use of, if we had had sailors, since we left the Miame, in intercepting supplies for Mr. Harrison, which, as Coln Nichol observes he can now receive by the Lake only. It is a pity we had not had some of the Artificers here, whose time has been entirely lost at York. I should suppose workmen might be spared from Kingston tho' it may be intended to build another vessel there to repair our Loss. I hope no time will be lost in sending an ample supply of Powder to this Province. That of course will not escape Major General Glasgow's Attention, I am sorry it has not been in my power to send any Pork to Mackina, where I believe it is much 302 wanted, there are but a very few Barrels here, and the Cattle are still too lean for meat. Can you give me any Information respecting a supply of Indian Goods for this quarter, I hope none were lost at York. The strength of our Indian Arm here, will I hope, ere long be much increased by the Establishment of System1 & by a good supply of Provisions and of Indian Stores. At present there is a Deficiency in these three Requisites, by which the service is much impeded. I look forward with strong hopes to the change in our circumstances which a month or six weeks may produce, As we have been able to keep our ground hitherto, there cannot be a doubt of our future success. At all events we will endeavour to deserve it I had pleased myself in Common with most People

in the Expectation of your succeeding the late Quarter Master General. I hope we are to have your Services in this Province, until your Labours have been rewarded. Flour, Corn, & Tallow are on Board the Hunter, for Mackina, on her Return more will be sent, I have not sent the Veterans until the next opportunity as they are more in want of provisions than of men. I hope to be able to send Pork also, to Mackina by the next opportunity. It is to be regretted that promotion should take place in this District without some reference to me, I *alude* to Mr Richardson whom I find promoted over the Faculty here, who have invariably shewn zeal and ability, which he has not. I have no partiality but to those who are Zealous, promotion of the service. Apropos I am really glad that our Friend Fowler has got a company in the 41st Regt.

1 System as outlined May 14, to settle the Indians contiguous to the river on the Michigan side.

Believe me with Esteem & Regard faithfully Yours Henry Proctor

Colonel Myers Fort George

[C 678-p 307.]

FROM WHITMORE KNAGGS2 —UNADDRESSED

2 See appendix.

(*War—1812*)

May it please Your Excellency

Sir ,

The subscriber most humbly stateth that he was an Inhabitant of Detroit in the month of August last past when General Hull surrendered that Country to His Majesty's Forces,

under the command of General Brocke, and that he was a Captain of Militia, under the command of Col. Brash 303 and the superintendent of Indian affairs. That the Indians considerably destroyed my houses, & plundered me of personal property to upwards of Twelve thousand dollars, Even then they were not content but sought after me & my family to put us to death. Under these circumstances I was advised to quit the country for some time, untill they could get reconciled; and accordingly finding it necessary I with some others Chartered a vessel & having obtained permission of the Commandant Col. Procter, sailed for Pennsylvania, (and here it may be proper to observe that I have never been *Paroled* either verbally or in writing, more than the due sense of having been captured) Having arrived at Presquille I proceeded to the City of Washington to settle accounts, & receive some monies due, but in this I was disappointed at that time, & being in a strange place having little money & few friends, it strongly occurred to me the disagreeable I had left a wife & 5 children in, destitute of means. I therefore resolved to return to the bosom of my family, & accompanied with only my little son, traversed the wilderness for Detroit again, until we reached the Miami Rapids (during my absence the inhabitants had removed and the settlement was all destroyed & no friends nearer to me than the river raisin) (where my mother and brothers lived While passing here I fell in with General Winchister & an army, *not knowing it was there* , on its way for Frenchtown, I proceeded and arrived at my brother's house who lived about a mile higher up the river from where the advance of his army then lay. I still resolved to hasten on to my family; (and here permit me Sir, to observe, that surely situated as I was, I would not think of attaching myself to an army, when the moment it would be known the Indians would just turn round & massacre my helpless wife and innocent children); but unfortunately was I situated, for next morning early, this army was attacked by Gen'l Procter, beaten destroyed or all taken prisoners. When the engagement commenced, I did not think myself safe so near & retired to a Friends at a greater distance, Yet after the defeat, I being found in the place, was arrested & made a Prisoner of. Altho I had no *concern* whatever with the army, nor in any way *connected* with it or *employed* in it. Since that period I have been kept a close prisoner, without even a chance of proving my innocence, which I could have very

easily done at that place, but was hurried on to Montreal, & where having under gone an Examination before the Police Officers, I was committed as a Prisoner of War, far from my evidences, my family & friends. At the time Your Excellency was expected to arrive there, I with *another* , was sent off again for this place, under the Stigma of having broke my Parole, both beneath the character of a man or of an officer. Yet Sir, If you will please grant me a hearing or an examination of facts, General 304 Winchester himself and some of his officers, I hear are near to this place, & who can prove my innocence, & that I am not that disgraceful character, or the guilty person with which I stand charged. That Your Excellency taking into view the whole of my conduct & situation, divested of prejudice or partiality (unknown to your *character*) will grant me the investigation or inquiry, by which I may be released from this my most painful *disgrace & confinement* . That I may be permitted to return by the way of Montreal, to enquire after my afflicted wife & unfortunate children & to find friends to assist me in my forlorn situation.1

1 See appendix.

Your Excellency's consideration for me will be ever gratefully remembered, by,

Sir Your most obedient Servant Whitmore Knaggs

Quebec Prison May 24th 1813

[C 689-p 71.]

FROM SURGEON'S MATE McKEEHAN

(*War—1812*)

To his Excellency Major General Dearborn

Sir

Without introduction or apology I beg leave to State to your excellency, that on the 31st of January last, I was ordered by General Harrison to proceed to the River Raisin in a flag of truce.—

I was required in my instructions If I met no British officer, at that place to proceed to Malden (if too great danger did not appear from the Savages) the same evening thirty three miles from the Raisin River, the Indians fired upon us, and killed Mr. La. Moutone (of my attendants) wounded myself in the foot, then conveyed me to Captain Elliot, who took me, to River Raisin, and from thence Sent me to General Proctor (at Head Quarters) in Sandwich who swore (by God) that the flag and papers that I gave him was only a pretence to cover a dishonorable service.

I rebutted his insinuations as moderately as my indignant feelings would admit, Genl Proctor made several observations, on Genl Harrisons abilities as a commander, said he was used to fight Indians but not British Troops—He kept my instructions, did not even inform the Senr officer, Ensign Baker 305 of the American Prisoners, that he had a letter for him. I was ordered to a Tavern under the care of a French Sergeant—I waited till the 4th of February before I wrote to General Proctor, demanding in what character I was considered, how long I would be detained, and the cause of my detainure. The next day the Generals aid informed me, I was recognized as surgeons mate, and would attend with Doctr Brown, on the American wounded prisoners, on the 12th I received a letter from Genrl Proctor in answer to one I had written to him the day before, of which the following is a copy.—

Sandwich , 12th February 1813

Sir

In answer to your letter of the 11th Inst I am directed by Colonol Proctor commanding to observe that you were sent in for the purpose of attending on the sick and wounded

of General Winchesters Army, for which purpose you are now detained—and beg leave further to observe that in the execution of your duty you will render a most important service to your country.

(Signed) I. M. Mcleain A. D. C.

I continued to attend the wounded until the 2nd of March when A. D. C. McLeain informed me that I was accused of carrying on a private correspondence, and that he was ordered to take me into Custody, and secure my papers which was accordingly done, in the most uncivil manner on the 8th of March. I was taken by a guard to Ft George without trial or hearing—altho I had written to General Proctor repeatedly requesting an investigation to which I received no answer of any kind, from Fort George I was sent to Montreal and hurried on, night & day altho thinly clothed, from being robbed and stripped by Indians, and the weather being very cold, on my arrival at Montreal, I was without being asked any questions (or permitted to ask any myself) put into a dungeon eighteen feet below the surface of the ground, in dark and Solitary Confinement and there kept 33 days.—After which time I was shut up with the American Prisoners—A few days after my elevation Lieutt Dudley, became acquainted with my Situation, and made such representation to General Provost, as induced his Excellency to send his aid Colonel Baynes. Who said he was dirrected, by the General, to inform me, that the outrages which had been committed on my person was contrary to his orders, and told Colonel Lethbridge to take my parole and liberate me immediately—the Colonel not having materials for writing at hand, said he would send for me at three 3 O'clock in less than one hour 39 306 the Town Mayor came and informed me, that the Governor on more mature consideration, thought he could not liberate me, until he would get despatches from Genrl Proctor—on the 17th May eight or ten days after, I was taken from prison, and in company with Lieutt Dudley, sent to the United States.

I may here observe that the apartment in which I was confined, did not contain either chair, bench or stool, or bedding of any kind, for the weeks Fresh Beef was furnished but no salt.

I was denied pen ink or paper, and treated uninformly with the utmost contempt, by the Sergt who I had the honor of seeing once a every day, for a few minutes.

By the request of fourteen American Prisoners, now in Montreal Jail whose names are hereto annexed, I beg leave to state to Your Excellency, that they are kept in close confinement sometimes half a day without water, and frequently two or three days without wood to cook—and when they complain, the jailors curses are fully lavished upon them, they have not the priviledges of procuring, some little necessaries, which the benevolence of some humane persons, enabled them to do, by giving a little money Sir George Prevost has told them that their confinement, is owing to the bad faith of their own Government &c I would have stated to Your Excellency the knowledge I had through the report of others, of the outrage and cruelties exercised on American Prisoners, taken at General Winchesters defeat, but must refer your excellency to Mr. Ruland, who had a command in the Michigan Militia, last summer, and who was after being dispossessed of all his property sent to Fort George with me, who no doubt had many opportunities of hearing such things triumphantly spoken of among British officers and subjects.

I have the honor to be Your Excellencys most humble and obedient Servant (Signed) Saml Mckeehan Surgeons Mate 2nd Regt Ohio Militia.

Albany 24 May 1813

George N. Rogers U. S. Army

William Holenback

Seth Barns

Gains Hooker

Philaster Jones

Library of Congress

Harry Jones

Jarech Wetherall

Major Watson

Alecr McGregan

Lewis Minor

Jno Campbell

Zebina Hankey

Pliny Hanky

David Johnston

[C 690-p 100.]

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certifiy that Mr. Whitmerl (Whitmore) Knaggs who was captured at the river raisin on the 22d day of January last and who is now I am informed confined as a prisoner of war in the city of Quebec.

Did not belong or appertain to the United States Army that he was not under my command or control, nor was he employed by me in any way whatever, I only knew him as a passenger or itinerant person.

Given in the Parish of Beauport near Quebec this 26th May 1813.

J. Winchester B . Genl. United States Army.

At Fort George in the month of february last to the best of my recollection I gave a certificate substantially to the same effect; though not verbatim not having a copy of the paper alluded to by me.

J. Winchester .

[C 689—p 75.]

WHITMORE KNAGGS TO GEN. GLASGOW

(*War—1812*)

General Glasgow Commandant

Sir ,

Please pardon my intruding on your leisure, but I am a poor prisoner & stranger and know not to whom to apply for relief.

When I wrote the enclosed,1 I thought to have it presented to His Excellency Sir George Prevost, but he departed without my having the opportunity. You Sir, as his representative, and the officer commanding, will I trust consider my unhappy situation, afford me a hearing and relief as I have certain vouchers to offer to attest my innocence, in the reason of my confinement. & your kindness & humanity shall be ever greatfully remembered by

1 The “enclosed” was probably his statement as it appears on the pages 302-3-4.

Sir Your most obedt. servant Whitmore Knaggs

Quebec Prison May 31—1813

Library of Congress

[C 689-p 76.]

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CAPTAIN ROBERTS TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*Royal Veteran Battallions*)

Fort Michilimackinac 25th May 1813

Sir

I have had the honor to receive Your Excellencys dispatch of the 8th Inst. conveyed by Lt. Col. De Boucherville and I beg leave to assure Your Excellency that my best endeavours shall not be wanting for the defense of the Posts entrusted to my charge.

Having been commanded by Your Excellency to state my wants I have given to Lt. Colonel De Boucherville a memorandum of such things as appear to me of the first necessity the returns will point out to Your Excellency the handful of men I have to defend these tolerably extensive works.

I have only to lament that the precarious state of my health renders me in great measure inadequate to the arduous duties of the times and whenever Your Excellency may see fit I must humbly intreat that I may be allowed to receive such medical aid as cannot be obtained here.

I have the honor to be Your Excellencys most obedient and humble servant Charles Roberts Captain 10 R. V. B.

Lieut Colonol Sir George Prevost.

[C 789-p 97.]

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Library of Congress

FROM BRIG. GEN. VINCENT—UNADDRESSED

(*War—1812*)

Bazyley's —Head of the Lake June 2nd 1813

Sir

I have the honor to enclose a Letter I received this morning from Major Genl. Dearborn, and I have to inform Your Excellency that permission is granted to the wives and families of the officers, left behind at Fort George, to embark when opportunities offer for Kingston or York.

I have already reported my arrival here to the Adjutant General and my intention to take up a position, until I received Reinforcements, or received instructions for my future conduct.

I have to assure Your Excellency, that the Troops are in great spirits and wait most anxious for an order to return to Fort George.1

1 See appendix.

I find that the Enemy have followed me with their advanced Guard to the Fifteen Mile Creek, consisting of one Hundred Dragoons and three hundred men; and a column of Two Thousand men have proceeded to the Twelve Mile Creek.

I do not think with this force they will attempt to attack me; I have received this information from a Deserter this day, who also informed me that the day he left the American Garrison, the Fleet sailed for Sackett's Harbour, and that Two Thousand men were embarked on board them in a great hurry.

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Unfortunately for Brig. Genl. Proctor, the Queen Charlotte arrived at Point Albino, on the 27th ultimo, and in consequence of the Fall of Fort George, was obliged to put off immediately without taking the provisions intended for Amherstburg; I am therefore afraid he will be in great distress for provisions.

I have made an attempt which I hope will succeed, by selecting six steady and well recommended officers out of the militia and Twenty Privates those march to-morrow for Amherstburg, driving all the cattle before them, and as some cash was necessary for the service ! as Bills would not answer! Colonel Clerk of the Militia has sent me five hundred Guineas.

My wants I have already mentioned in my letter to Col. Baynes of the 31st ultimo.

I have the honor to be Sir Your obedt. humble servant (Signed) John Vincent Brig. General

[C 679—p. 1.]

CAPTAIN ROBERTS TO SECRETARY FREER

(*Volunteers*)

Fort Michilimackinac 2 June 1813

Sir

I have just now received instructions inlisting Fensibles at this place. I do conceive it very probable that many men may be got here in the course of a few weeks but unfortunately there is no money to be promised for the payment of the bounties may I beg of you to state this circumstance to the 310 Commander of the Forces in the mean time I shall endeavor to obtain all the men that can be got under the circumstances in which I am placed.

As it has always been the custom of the service to provide this Post with stationary may I be allowed to make my requisition for a supply as there is none to be procured on the spot.

I have the Honor to be Sir Your most obedient Servant Charles Roberts Captain Commanding

Captain Noah Freer

[C 797—p 120.]

MR. ASKIN TO MR. CAMERON

(*Indians*)

Mich .1 June 3 1813

1 His abbreviation for Michilimackinac.

My Dear Sir ,

Your Letter of the 4th ult. reached this the 28th ulto. and should have ansd long ere this had it not been for the constant arrival & departure of Indians for Detroit which I had to send off with utmost dispatch in order to afford every aid to that quarter from whence they would be sent to Fort George or elsewhere when required also in procuring Canoes for those Indians I now send to your quarter, the Missisawgay & La Cloche Indians must have reached you long ere now for they left La Cloche early in the Spring. I expect the Lake Superior Indians every day & shall send them to you also with an Interpreter Mr. Joseph Caddoth to prevent their injuring our subjects for they cannot know the disaffected settlers from the others. The accts of the transaction which have taken place with you is distressing, but trust in God that a change has taken place ere this. Those scoundrels & cut throats should be pointed out to the Indians & they will soon make an example of them. As York was not a place of defence I was rather astonished that a vessel was building

there which could not be protected. I am extremely sorry to hear that poor Mrs Givins & her family have suffered so much but as my friend Givins is unhurt he will soon be able to take ample satisfaction for the injury done his family.

Now doubt long ere this you have received official ans of General Proctors having attacked Gen. Harrison at Fort Megs on the Miamis River with a force of 500 Regulars, 240 Militia & 1200 Indians & which his Batteries were Cannonading the Enemys Fort a Reinforcement of 1400 Kentuckians 311 arrived. Our Bataries were carried by them & retaken again & the whole cut to pieces except 488 prisoners which survived, prisoners of war at the time the reinforcement attacked our right wing. Genl. Harrison made a Sortie from his Fort but was drove back into his Fort with Slaughter. We lost only two or three men of the regulars. Capt Bondy of the Essex Militia & 19 Indians killed and wounded. Two hundred Ottawa Warriors have already left this for the aid of Amherstburg & every day parties are going off. There are sixty more Chips & Ottawas here which will set off in a day or two at farthest exclusive of the 26 odd Chippwi who accompany the Bearer hereof. Col. Boucherville Priv. A. D. C. brought us the information respectg the surrender of your place to Genl. Dearborn —R. D. Esq. isn'd arrived as yet nor any answr whatever the Boats which left this on the 3 ulto. avent returned. When he arrives he will find canoes &c &c ready. Every Indian that can bear arms along L. Michigan and Huron from Sagnaw Bay to Matchedash are going to exert themselves in driving away if possible these Scoundrels that have harassed them so long. Lt. H. McLean A. D. C. to Genl. Proctor & Staff Adjt. Riefensteins left this for Montreal *via* the Grand river this day. Have the goodness to let me know by the first opportunity how my friend Mr. Selby is I am anxious to hear of him it having been reported to me that he was very ill some time past. Our mutual friend Crauford arrived here wt Alxr. McKenzie on the 28th ulto from Montreal the latter Gentleman went of to Fort William two days after his arrival. Have the goodness inform Major Givins [if returned from Kingston] that it will be necessary to have some one along the route near Matchedash or Bearmans to supply the Indians wt Provs else to give them the necessary instructions as to the rout they are to pursue. I will write you again in a few days by Mr. Cadoth1 —& am

1 Believed to be Cadotte.

My Dear Sir Yours most faithfully [signed] Jno. Askin

P. S. I enclose you a sketch of Fort Megs &c & the situation of our forces when attacking & attacked by the reinforcement and my sons Letters having an explanation of the same. The Hurry of Business prevents my writing to the Dy. S. G. & have to request that you will give the earliest information on this head & send him the enclosed sketch has not been already sent you or him.

D. Cameron Esqr. York.

M. G. XI

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LIST OF SHIPPING

Brock 2 Schooner Lake Ontario Burlington 42 " " Canada 104 Kingston building Champlain 32 Lake Champlain Charwell 12 Sloop " Ontario Huron Schooner " Huron Kingston 58 " Ontario Montreal 20 " " Netley 10 " " Newash Schooner " Huron Niagara 20 " Ontario Psyche 32 " " St. Lawrence 90 " " Sauk 2 Schoon. " Erie Star 14 Sloop " Ontario Tecumseth 2 Schoon. " Huron Wolf 104 Kingston Canada building

List of shipping on the Canada Lakes Last War with the U. S. of A.

[M. G. 11-p 105.] (1813)

BRIG. GEN. PROCTOR TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Sandwich June 4th 1813

Sir

I had the honor of Your Excellency's letter of the 7th ulto: in Duplicate, as Lieut Col. De Boucherville may meet Your Excellency before Lieut McLean who is the Bearer of my Report can reach you, I have sent a duplicate thereof by him. Mr. Harrison, I believe is nearly in the state I left him, waiting the arrival of Reinforcements, or the Result of the Enemy's utmost efforts on the Niagara line, of which Your Excellency will, no doubt, be sooner, and more circumstantially informed, than you could possibly be by me. Lt. Colonel Boucherville can give you all the information I have respecting Mr. Dickson. Some unfortunate circumstances render me more dependent on the Niagara District, than should have been the case. On the 313 subject of provisions, and Indian goods, also Guns and Ammunition, I refer Your Excellency to the Bearer hereof, with whom I have had much conversation thereon. On the Marine, as at present, the Colonel can speak fully. On the New Vessel also. Presque isle and Cleveland will naturally become the subject of much attention. I have much to say, but under existing circumstances it would not be prudent to commit it to paper. I shall endeavor to do my Duty and confidently look to Your Excellency for every possible aid.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedt Servant Henry Proctor Brer. General

His Excellency Lt. Genl. Sir George Prevost &c &c &c.

[C 679—p. 14.]

EARL BATHURST TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Downing Street S June 1813

Sir

Your despatch No. 48, has satisfactorily explained the grounds upon which you acted in liberating on Parole the American Prisoners of war taken at Detroit, nor do I think it necessary to recur again to the subject of exchanges of Prisoners having already fully stated my opinion on that subject in my letter of the 12th ultimo No 25 B

I have the honor to be Sir Your obedt Servt Bathurst

Lieut Genl. Sir George Prevost Bart &c &c

[C 679-p 52.] 40

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BRIG. GEN. PROCTOR TO CAPTAIN MCDONALL

(*War—1812*)

Sandwich June 10th 1813

My Dear Sir

By my last letter to you, I trust you will perceive the Expediency of sending me the remainder of the 41st Regiment. I did flatter myself that they were on the Route hither, from your letter to me, I do think that the Remainder of the 41st Regt should be sent here without Delay, to, in any degree, ensure the safety of this District. There has always been the greatest reluctance in the Niagara District to the sending here any Regulars, I stand very little chance here at the end of the Line, if, I am to receive only Reinforcements that can be spread. I informed the Indians in Council that Four Hundred Troops were on the March here, and I can assure you that it might have the worst effect, were they to conceive I was deceiving or amusing them. I am really very anxious to hear of Dickson, as I fear the Americans have found Employment for him. You will have plenty of Indians, without my sending more, I should run some risk in parting with any more, you have some very

fine Fellows among them, whom perhaps I may miss. I am very anxious to have our new vessel in the water where she will be much safer: Every effort should be made to send us seamen before the vessels at Presque Isle are ready.1 If Reinforced I shall have some confidence, but I know that the cry has been always against sending men here. The consideration for me will be apparent in sending Lieut Colonel Short, who brought his Baggage to us, and left provisions, and the Baggage of the 41st Regt to be destroyed, or fall into the possession of the Enemy. I shall endeavour to do my duty. The Bearer of the Dispatch who is a very good subject on the Thames, only stops to take this hasty scrawl, which he promises to forward. I understand that from the bad roads most of the horses are completely done up.

1 He refers to the vessels Com. Perry was known to be building at Erie.

I remain ever truly Yours Henry Proctor Brigd General

Captain McDonall &c. &c.

[C 679-p 110.]

315

BOUCHERVILLE (AID-DE-CAMP) TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

13 June 1813

To His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bt &c &c &c

Sir

According to your order and instruction I left Montreal for Michilimackinac on the 9th Ulto: nothing of Consequence occured until my arrival at St. Joseph the evening of the 22d, on

my arrival at said place, I called on the Commanding officer, and with difficulty Could get admittance, that officer and men being all in bed, the next morning, renewed my visit, with intent to request of said Commanding officer for two days provisions for myself and two men whom I engaged on my arrival to take me to Michilimackinac. but met with a refusal, so once more I had to have recource to Mr. McLeod who in the most handsome manner gave me all assistance that laid in his power. St. Joseph in its present state Cannot be of any importance, all the serviciable Artillery have been transported to Michilimackinac, there still remains four long twelve pounders, spiked and without Carriages.—Concerning1 myself lightly treated by the Commg officer, I communicated very little to him, but left St Joseph's early on the 23d & the following day by four o'clock got to Michilimackinac, where I delivered Your letter to Captain Roberts, and reported the conduct of his officer—of him I cannot say too much, everything that laid in his power to do, he did likewise to Mr Askin, I feel myself under very great obligations, for, but for his exertions in procuring Indians and men, canoes &c., I must have remained nine or ten days at Michilimackinac. Captain Roberts Communicated his wants, but to be more particular I desired they should be set down in writing—which I have honor to lay before Your Excellency, likewise three other statements, permit me Sir, to observe to Your Excellency, from my own observations, and from Captain Roberts, that the Confidence to be placed in the Indians is very precarious, the least failure on our part, discourages them, & at best they are but a barbarous ally, respecting neither sex nor age. at present they all seem to be in high spirits, and wishing for nothing better than the destruction of the Americans.—Of Mr Dickson I cannot, I am sorry to say, give you any accounts, he has not been heard of since the 22d March last, he was then at Chicago on his way to the Western Indians, his remissness in Communicating with Captain Roberts cannot be accounted for, unless it be, that the people in whom he placed Confidence, have betrayed him, several other reasons for

1 See appendix.

316 his non arrival may be adduced, first, No Canoes from the Western had as yet arrived at Michilimackinac. The Indians of the Upper Missisipi had been at War with one

another last fall and early in the winter, finally a report had reached Capt. Roberts that the Americans, Two thousand strong under Genl Clark were coming up the Missisipi to impeed the progress of Dickson, early in the spring Captain Roberts sent several boats well manned with Canadians to the Bay, with stores & provisions for Dickson.1 off these boats, no report had reached Michilimackinac when I left it. Capt Roberts state of health is bad. Dr. Mitchel, requested I should mention that circumstance to Your Excellency, himself is far from disavowing it—but he seems so spirited a man that I verily believe, he would feel uneasy should he be superceded, his last words at parting were “assure Sir George, tho' my means are small, still in Case of an attack, that I shall not surrender this Garrison, intrusted to my care, unless I am reduced to the very last extremity.”—After a stay at Michilimackinac of three days, I left it on the 27th & got down to Sandwich in the morning of the first Instant, & delivered your dispatch to General Proctor, went down with him to Amherstburg, was shown round the garrison, had several Conferences with the General in which he communicated his situation, his means, what he would propose, but as I am the bearer of dispatches from him the General to Your Excellency I shall postpone entering on any subjects, until Your Excellency be pleased to Question & point out the different subjects on which I am to answer, well aware that General Proctors Communications must be more Correct, than the Communications that I can give, about noon on the 5th Instant set off on my way down & got to the head of the Lake, Wednesday morning, saw General Vincent & a number of his officers, stayed at said place, but the necessary time to receive the letters of the Genl to Your Excellency. They contain all the news, all I have to observe, is that I found the troops in high spirits, but am sorry at the same time to observe that the disaffections of the settlers is shocking and deserves an exemplary chastisement. At York I saw Lt Col: Ogilvy. Plenderleth, these Gentlemen are doing very well, as well as the rest of the wounded, here sir permit me to close this report & assure Your Excellency that my attachment to your person will be as lasting as my existence, & to beg of Your Excellency a continuation of favour in employing me, where and when ever, honor or renown can be obtained

1 Much concerned lest the mission of Dickson, to bring reinforcements of Western Indians, had become a failure.

I have the honor to be of Your Excellency The Most Dutiful Aid-de-Camp & faithful obedt & very humble servant Boucherville

Few miles above Kingston 13 June 1813

[C 679-p 83–89]

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FROM BRIG. GEN. VINCENT—UNADDRESSED

(*War—1812*)

40 Mile Creek 14 June 1813

Sir

The Americans have passed a Brig up the rapids at Fort Erie on the 10th inst:—They have two Brigs and six large Gun boats at Presque Isle1 —not yet ready but expected in three weeks—I have sent this information to Amherstburg

1 Perry being active in construction at Erie.

I have the honor &c &c John Vincent Bre Genl

[C 679-p 92.]

FROM BRIG. GEN. PROCTOR—UNADDRESSED

Sandwich 15th June 1813

My Dear Sir

Your letter of the 10th Inst was the most agreeable one I have received for some time past, and I most heartily congratulate you on the brilliant Result of the judicious and gallant attack of the 6th Inst. The Enemy are endebted entirely to their Flotilla, for their late successes. We are anxiously looking for a Reinforcement of seamen, who I hope can be spared from the lower Lakes, tho: I am fully aware that the enemy are not idle at Sackets Harbour; neither are they I apprehend at Presquile. Capt. Barclay is endeavouring to ascertain their real state, I am surprised they have not appeared on this Lake. We are well aware of the necessity of giving the first Blow, indeed we owe everything to our having done so. Captain Barclay has I believe written urgently to Sir James Yeo, on the necessity of our having seamen without delay. If I had a regular force, on which alone I could place any reliance, I could give an impulse to my Indian Force that would enable them to feed at the Enemys expense, at present, they are not half fed, and would leave us if they were not warm in the cause. The want of meat does operate much against us, as does the want of Indian arms, and goods. In short our wants are so serious that the Enemy must derive great advantage from them alone. Surely Mr. Couche2 need not have kept us so entirely without money as well as meat. I am however full of hope that we shall stand our ground; trusting that every aid and supply will be afforded us as soon as possible From the Head of the Lake I should suppose that the

2 Couche was deputy commissary general to the forces in Canada, often put to it to meet demands for money and supplies, and in consequence subject to irritation.

318 land carriage to the Grand River is practicable. & thence by water to Long Point is certainly so. Provisions, Indian Arms and goods can undoubtedly be sent, and some exertions may be expected as these Articles cannot be dispensed with. Coln Nicholl is fully qualified to direct the transport in question. I have sent one of the Commissariat to meet the 41st on the Thames, and also some Boats for their conveyance.

The last letter I received from Dickson was dated the 22d of March nor have they at Mackinac heard from him, He promised to be here in June, early, I am very anxious to hear from him, tho' every Person speaks confidently of his soon coming, The Enemy's Emisaries are availing themselves with no little effrontery of Circumstances unfavourable to us, and have effected the Defection of a few Indians. They were sending Wampum to Mr. Harrison. I hope we shall be able to remedy the evil, and punish Individuals. You will perceive a necessity for Troops to inspire Confidence and restrain the Evil disposed. I fear this Circumstance may delay the Indians a couple of Days longer, however annoying it cannot be helped. I shall Council with the Indians and endeavour to persuade them to take a Few of Mr. Harrison's Cattle. They are however very wild from having been fired at often. I feel no small Confidence of supplies from your being where you are. Mrs. and Miss Proctor desire to be kindly remembered to you, as does Harry. Believe me My Dear Sir

every truly Yours Henry Proctor

The want of some officer here, of the Adjutant General's Department has caused me much Dissatisfaction. H. P.

BRIG. GEN. VINCENT TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

Sir

40—18th June 1813

I have just received the enclosed letter from Captain Barclay and I think it is so very necessary that the remainder of the 41st Regiment should be sent forward immediately for the purpose of destroying this Fleet at Presque Isle,1 that I shall not hesitate in giving every assistance to Captain Barclay, Capt. McDonall will explain to Your Excellency my intention

1 Commodore Perry's fleet, then being fitted out at Erie, which place was known as Presque Isle.

I have the honor to be Sir Your obedt humble servant John Vincent Bre Genl

His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bt &c &c &c

[C 679-p 107.]

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TO BRIG. GEN. PROCTOR—WITHOUT SIGNATURE1

1 Though unsigned this letter manifestly is to be attributed to the commander-in-chief, Sir George Prevost.

(*War—1812*)

Head Quarters Kingston 20th June 1813

Sir

In addition to my letter of the 14th Inst. (whereof a duplicate is herewith transmitted) I have to inform you that Major General de Rottenburg,2 (whom I have appointed to the command[1] of the Forces serving in Upper Canada) has received my directions to push on the remainder of the 41st Regt from the head of Lake Ontario to Amherstburg, and also the other re-inforcements & supplies intended for the right Devision of the Army of Upper Canada which you Command.

2 B. Genrl Proctor has been directed to provide for the relief of Capt. R.

The supplies are to consist £1000 in specie, £2000 in Army Bills, salt Pork, as much as can be forwarded, some clothing and all the shoes which could be collected by Capt

Chambers, together with a proportion of Intrenching Tools, & some articles for the Naval Dept.

Encourage as much as possible the exertions of the Navy; bring forward the united power of both services to crush the Enemy's endeavours to obtain the ascendency on Lake Erie, when a favourable opportunity presents itself, in short persevere in those judicious exertions which distinguished Your Command and are so honourable to Yourself and acceptable to his Majesty & Govt.

Bre General Proctor

[C 679-p 113]

FROM CAPTAIN ROBERTS

(*Royal Veteran Battallion*)

Fort Michilimackinac 21st June 1813

Sir

The state of my health having obliged me to apply to Hospital Mate Mitchell for his opinion, for the information of his Excellency the Commander of the Forces I have the honor to enclose a certificate with a request that you will lay it before his Excellency.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient Servant Charles Roberts Captain 10 V. B.

Military Secretary

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I Certify that I have attended Capt Chas Roberts of the 10 M. V. Battn since the month of January last that his disorder is great debility of the Stomache & Bowels that the aid of tonics and other medicines have been resorted to without effect that in his present

situation he is incapable of attending to his duty and it is my opinion that change of Climate is the only hope left of affording him relief.

D. Mitchell Hospt Mate

Michc June 13th 1813

[C 789-pp 108-9.]

FROM CAPTAIN ROBERTS

(*War—1812*)

Fort Michilimackinac 22 June 1813

Sir ,

It having been represented to me that the Skins and Peltries taken on board the two American Sloops Friends Good Will and Erie will be totally destroyed if not sent down the ensuing summer and being unable to procure Canoes for the purpose here—I take the liberty of requesting that the Canoes about to be sent up with Kings stores may be allowed to carry down these skins and Peltries.1

1 These are the furs in which Forsyth, Richardson & Co., and McTavish, McGillivray & Co., of Montreal, interested themselves in the memorial of May 7, 1813. The sloop “Good Will,” was renamed by the British “Little Belt.”

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient Servant Charles Roberts Captain Commanding

Military Secretary

[C 689-p 150.]

ENSIGN LAMBTON TO CAPTAIN ROBERTS

(*Royal Veteran Battallion*)

Fort Michilimackinac 22nd June 1813

Sir ,

Having had charge of the Canadian Volunteers ever since their formation in July last I would wish to submit through you the propriety of my 321 Soliciting his Excellency the Commander of the Forces for the usual allowance of non-effective and contingent money.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient Servant John Lambton Ensg 10th R. V. Battn.

To Captain Roberts.

[C 789-p 111.]

FROM CAPTAIN ROBERTS

(*Royal Veteran Battallion*)

Fort Michilimackinac 23d June 1813

Sir

For the consideration of his Excellency the commander of the Forces I have the honor to inclose a letter I have just received from Ensign Lambton.

Having given him charge of the Canadian Volunteers on their first establishment I submit to you the propriety of his claim.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient Servant Charles Roberts Capt 10. V. B.

Military Secretary.

[C 789-p 110.]

MR. DICKSON1 TO SECRETARY FREER

1 Here is the much longed for Dickson arrived at Mackinac, June 10; last heard from March 22, the day he was to have left Chicago for the west; 600 warriors with him and 800 others on the way to Detroit.

(*Indians*)

Michilimackinac June 23d 1813

Sir

Please inform His Excellency Sir George Prevost of my having arrived at this place on the 10th Inst. and much to my sorrow I have been detained until this day by the badness of the weather and other unavoidable delays.

The force I have with me consists of upwards of Six hundred chosen warriors, I have sent eight hundred more by land to Detroit, where I trust they are arrived. I defer at present entering into any detail respecting my proceeding proceedings, as Coln. St George may still be detained some time here, but 41 322 from Detroit I shall have the honour of communicating to His Excellency whatever has occurred to me respecting the present state of this country.

I dispatched from La Baye on the 1st Inst: a courier to Genl Proctor and Genl. Sheaffe informing them of my intended route and the number of warriors with me and also those I had sent by land, I have the honor to be

Sir Your most obt humble Servant Robert Dickson Agent to the Indians of the Western Nations

Noah Freer Esq Mil: Secty

[C 257-p 86]

CAPTAIN ROBERTS TO SECRETARY FREER

(*Indians*)

Fort Michilimackinac , 23 June 1813

Sir

For the information of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces, I have the honor to acquaint you that Mr. Dickson with the inclosed return of Indian warriors arrived here on the 9th of this month1 and is now embarking for Detroit, the insufficiency of stores to supply his demands has been one of the principal causes of his long delay at this place. I have been obliged to have recourse to the merchants to furnish a part of his requisitions the urgency of which was stated in such strong terms that I thought the service might suffer by my refusing to grant what he asked, I have therefore taken the responsibility on myself with a view of facilitating the departure of those people to the scene of action.

1 Dickson says 10th; unimportant, the main thing being the warriors he has with him, and the others on the way.

Our Frontier on the side of Chicago is represented as being in a very defenseless state all the Indians from that quarter having marched to Detroit, it is also asserted by some of the traders from that neighbourhood that the Americans are collecting in force on the Illinois.

I have the honour to be Sir your most obedient servant Charles Roberts Capt Commg

Military Secretary

[C 257-p 88]

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List of Indian Warriors Going to Detroit

116 Chippeways

220 Menominies

42 Ottawas

97 Sioux1

1 The home of the Sioux being Minnesota, and to the westward of the Mississippi. The Chippewas were of Lake Superior; Ottawas, western Michigan; Foxes, Winnebagoes and Menominees, Wisconsin.

18 Foxes or Renards

130 Winibagoes or Puants

Total 623

Michilimackinac June 21st 1823 Robert Dickson Agent to the Indians of the Western Nations

[C 257-p 87.]

CAPTAIN ROBERTS TO SECRETARY FREER

(*Indians*)

Fort Michilimackinac 25 June 1823

Sir

Mr. Dickson on his arrival here having stated the necessity of communicating, with as little delay as possible to His Excellency the Commander of the Forces the condition of the Indian stores at this Post, I have lost no time in preparing a canoe to descend the Grand River, and as there are many contradictory reports in circulation relative to the operations in the neighbourhood of Fort George I embrace this opportunity of forwarding to you some letters for the information of His Excellency.

Lt. Coln. St. George arrived here a few days since on his way to Montreal in consequence of his wounds and having applied to me for the means of conveyance I have given orders that this canoe shall be fitted up for his reception.

The Canoe has been built by the Indians here and the conductor and seven men have been engaged by me to take her down and are to receive payment on their arrival at Montreal.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Most obedt Servt Charles Roberts Captain Commanding

Military Secretary

P. S. Coln. St. George has taken upon himself the payment of the canoe.

[C 257-p 91.]

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MR. POWELL TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Private

York 28th June 1823

Sir ,

Your Excellency's commands of the 21st Instant receive the earliest attention; there can be no doubt that if required Provision of Beef and Flour for the support of an army, short of 2000 men can be furnished from the country depending for a market on this place. The scarcity of salt is such that little dependence can be had on a regular supply of salt Pork and the issue of fresh pork would probably be injurious to the health of the Soldier. There will be abundance of Forage; large crops of Rye have been raised for the purpose of distillation, which the first act of Gen. de Rottenburg's administration has prohibited; this Grain affords a wholesome food both for Man and Horse, and will allow a larger proportion of wheat flour and oats to be offer'd to the commissary.1

1 This is a reply to a communication requesting definite information as to the general situation in that part of the country with such suggestions as the circumstances call for.

The accommodation for Troops is very little diminished, the two block houses being the only soldier's quarters destroyed. There is Timber on the ground prepared for building ways and wharfs for the ship, sufficient to throw up a coarse but warm cover for a great many men at little expense. The Town could not billet a thousand men without great inconvenience.

The nature of our population is sufficiently known to Your Excellency; the march of Troops through the country has occasioned an obvious change in the manners and language of the People, and there can be no doubt that the permanent station of a body of Troops here could have an excellent effect in confining the loyal and over awing the disaffected especially if a party of Dragoon would occasionally make excursions through the country.

It is an invidious Task to give opinions on individual Character, but Your Excellency's wish is a command.

The greater or less energy of public functionaries will ever take its Tone from the Head. In the absence of General de Rottenburg we should not expect any thing decisive in the civil administration, if the measures depended upon every Individual, but the President has authorized the Council to deliberate any propositions supposed to be important, without writing for a special reference, so that little delay need interpose between the necessity for any vigorous proceeding and its sanction; I think I may assure Your Excellency that under this arrangement there will be no display of weakness. The Sheriff is a man of personal intrepidity, but extremely cautious of responsibility—our police is weak as must be the case where a numerous body of Individuals have an equal voice.

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Major Allan of the Militia, although on parole fulfills with promptitude and decision, the duties of governmental agent at this place.

The Commissary is laborious and well acquainted with the resources of the country, but the habits of his department restrain in some degree the energy of personal character by its rigid regulations to ensure economy.

The Secretary of the province is a distressed man who has no duties to perform which call for energy the same way be said of the Surveyor General.

The public mind as far as I am able to judge is depressed by the alternate apprehension of preserving or losing the superiority on the Lake. There seems to be but one opinion as to keeping this port, that it depends upon the fleet, and there is some regret expressed that it became necessary for the Commodore to destroy the Town of Sodus, from the apprehension this place may be the subject of retalliation.

In the event of any serious disaster to His Majesty's Arms little reliance is to be had on the power of the well disposed to repress and keep down the Turbulence of the disaffected who are very numerous.

I have replied to the several Paragraphs of Your Excellency's letter with that frankness of a single mind, which takes everything at the Letter. Should I have mistaken Your Excellency's wish, and wandered from its object I assure myself that it will be excused as proceeding from an implicit obedience to your supposed desire by

Your Excellency's faithful and devoted Sert. Wm. Dummer Powell

His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bart

[C 679-p 148.]

BRIG. GEN. PROCTOR TO CAPTAIN McDONALL

(*War—1812*)

Sandwich June 29th 1813

My Dear Sir

I have the pleasure to inform you, of the Arrival of Mr. R. Dickson, at Mackinac on the 11th Inst.1 but whether he has gone to your Aid, or is coming here direct I do not know. Seventy two head of Cattle have been brought here by Mr. Grant, who was sent by General Vincent for that purpose. Some effort must be shortly made to procure an adequate supply of

1 Much pleased to hear that Dickson is on hand with his western tribes.

326 meat, which cannot be done without Troops, as at present our Indian force is not a disposable one, tho I look to a change which may, and I trust will, make it so, Our Indians

very seldom get any thing but Bread. We are very much in want of Indian Guns and Amunition, and also of Goods. I do not like writing where I must dwell so much on wants. There is no money to be had here. There cannot be any payments to the Troops even, or in any of the Departments, if money is not regularly sent to the commissary. The Detroit will be launched in a Fortnight, but her Anchor was wanted at Kingston. We could lend her guns if she had Seamen. I believe now that Captain Barclay is making some attempt on the Enemy's vessels. We had purposed making an attempt with all our means, but, I suppose he saw, and learned that an immediate attempt was most eligible. We sent to Captain Derenzie, and changed his Route to Long Point, where the others had better be sent also.

I may expect him to lose some men; I hope none of the Staff. We are anxiously looking now in every Direction. There must have been many Arrivals at Quebec, if we have not been very unfortunate. Mr. Grant waits. I shall write when anything interesting occurs.

I remain Ever truly yours Henry Proctor , Brig. General

Captain McDonall A D C

[C 679-p 155.]

EARL BATHURST TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Downing Street 1st July 1813

Sir

Your Dispatches to No. 56 inclusive have been received and laid before His Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

His Royal Highness entirely approves the early measures which you took for strengthening the Line of defence in Upper Canada, as soon as it was evident from the movements of the American army, that their efforts would be principally directed against that Province and altho' it appears that the Enemy have been so far successful in that quarter as to obtain temporary Possession of York, His Royal Highness sees no reason to attribute that disaster 327 to any want of proper Precaution on your part or to any deficiency in the Instructions furnished by you to Sir R. H. Sheaffe.

I cannot but be most anxious to learn how far this unfortunate occurrence may influence your naval superiority on Lake Ontario: But as far as I can judge from the American news papers, which are as yet my only source of intelligence, I derive some satisfaction from believing that the damage done by the Enemy is confined to the burning of the Sir Isaac Brock, upon the stocks, and the destruction of the Naval and Military Stores deposited at York, and that consequently the British Naval Superiority on that Lake tho' diminished is not lost.

To repair the former of these Losses must be the main object of your exertions (as it is one in which no effectual assistance can be given you from hence). The additional supplies of Military and Naval Stores, and of Indian presents which I ordered from Canada, on the first receipt of the intelligence, will arrive for the most part at the end of the present year and the remainder so early in the ensuing season as to repair effectually every loss of that description which may have been sustained.

It is almost unnecessary to impress upon you the extreme importance of securing Kingston against an accident, similar to that which York has sustained, either by maintaining a larger force in its neighborhood during the winter months, or by adding to those works which you had already provided for its defence. If it should be practicable, I am sure you will not omit any opportunity for providing most effectually for its security by attacks (similar to that made at Ogdensburg) upon the Enemy's other Ports on the Lake, which

if successful would render the Invasion of Upper Canada, if not impracticable, at least extremely difficult.

His Majestys Government entirely approve of the Force which the Legislature of Upper Canada propose to substitute for the Militia of the Province, and have no hesitation in sanctioning the additional Bounty which you recommend to each volunteer out of the Extraordinaries of the Army.

By intelligence received from Barbadoes I learn that the 13th & 64th Regiments of the numbers mentioned in the margin* sailed from Martinique on the 2nd of May I trust therefore that they have, before this, reached Halifax; and as Menrow's Regiment also sailed from Gibraltar on the 2nd of June in three frigates, there can be but little doubt of their arrival in the St. Lawrence early in the present month.

* 13th 750 men, 64th 840.

As the attempt which has been made in Scotland to raise a 2d Battalion to the 49th Regt. for limited service has not been attended with the success which had been anticipated, I cannot hold out to you the prospect of any 328 additional Reinforcements during the present year beyond that which may be derived from the Detachments belonging to Regiments in Canada, which will be dispatched from hence by the August Fleet. But I have much satisfaction in learning by your Dispatch No. 56 that you consider the Reinforcements which have been forwarded to Canada as sufficient to enable you to act with Vigor against the Enemy, & to convert, if necessary, your defensive into offensive operations. on this subject I have only to observe that His Majesty's Government would feel great difficulty in recommending any offensive operation which should lead you to a great distance from your frontier: If however any opportunity should offer of gaining any immediate or early advantage by an attack within the limits of the Enemy's Territory, I am convinced that you will be no less eager to seize it, than His Majesty's Government will be ready to give to such an offensive measure their most hearty concurrence.

I have the honour to be Sir Your most obedient Humble Servant Bathurst

P. S. Advises have been received since writing the above that the 13th & 64th Regts arrived at Halifax on the 1st of June.

To Lieut General Sir Geo. Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 679-p 164.]

MAJ. GEN. DE ROTTENBURG TO BRIG. GEN. PROCTOR

(*War—1812*)

Headquarters 12 Mile Creek 1st July 1813

Sir ,

I have the honor to inform you that I have taken in serious consideration the situation of the army under your command in the event of any disaster happening to our Fleet so as to give the Enemy the command of the Lake Ontario when I should be under the necessity of retreating with my division of the Army upon Kingston without perhaps being able to maintain myself long enough for your joining me at the Head of the Lake. In case of such a disastrous event taking place no other resource will be left for you than to retreat on Lake Huron and gain from thence, Lake Superior when you 329 would find 40 canoes belonging to the North west Company with six Canadians in each capable of conveying by the Grand or Ottawa River to Montreal one thousand Men with their returns and accoutrements I have long ago made an arrangement with the North West Company to that effect in case of the worse happening & think it proper to communicate this plan to you as this mighty conflict between the two fleet must shortly take place.1

1 See appendix.

I expect a Reinforcement tomorrow or the day after and shall then immediately reinforce you with one hundred men of the 41st Regt.

I have the Honor to be Sir Your most obedt Servt. (Signed) Francis De Rottenburg , M. Genl. Comdg.

Brig. Genl. Proctor &c. &c. &c.

[C 679-p. 218.]

MR. CREWE TO COL. BUNBURY

(*War—1812*)

Office Of Ordnance 2d July 1813

Sir ,

The Master General having referred to the Board Earl Bathurst's letter of the 3d ult. with copy of one from Sir Geo. Prevost, enclosing a return of Ordnance, Ammunition & Stores which have been captured since the commencement of Hostilities with the U. States of America at the different places therein mentioned & suggested the propriety of giving directions for the issue of the usual & customary valuation of the articles, that a Distribution of the same might be made to the Parties concerned in these Captures. I have the honor to request you will submit to Earl Bathurst the enclosed paper which this Board have caused to be drawn out, showing the Documents that still are wanting to enable them to have a correct valuation made of the stores or a Bill allowed to the Captors, by which it will be seen they are as follows

Vizt—

Condemnations for the whole of the Captures as lawful Prizes.

Certificates or acknowledgements of the receipt of the Stores by the Civil officer of the ordnance, into whose Charge they are delivered, for all the five captures, Vizt, Michilimackinac, Queenstown, Detroit, River au Raisin & Ogdensburg. 42

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Returns showing the State of the Stores for Michilimackinac and Queenstown; and at Ogdensburg for all except the Guns.

Either the Weights or Lengths of the Iron and Brass ordnance, or the latter to be described as heavy, medium, or light; for those at Michilimackinac, Queenstown & Detroit.1

1 This request for specific details comes from the board of ordnance at headquarters in London. A reward was customarily allowed to those concerned in the capture of cannon, etc.

I have & (signed) R. H. CREWE

To Col . Bunbury

[C 689-p 171.]

BRIG. GEN. PROCTOR TO CAPTAIN McDONALL

(*War—1812*)

Sandwich July 4th 1813

My Dear Sir

Tho: I had not the pleasure of hearing from you by the last opportunity, I flatter myself that you are still with the Army whose movements are of so much Consequence to us. In my last letter I mentioned that I Conceived it requisite, the whole of the 41st Regt should be

in this district with as little delay as possible. I have only to say, that the Detention of the Force ordered here, by the Commander of the Forces has prevented this District being in a state of security, which the Destruction of the Enemy's Vessels at Presque Isle would have effected. A service that might very easily have been completely effected, a very short time since, but which I apprehend may now be attended with much difficulty. I should also have had it in my Power to have supplied myself at the Enemy's Expense with Provisions of which we have not an adequate supply at present. I shall make the attempt willingly on Presque isle; except I have the *whole* of the first Batalion. Which I have reason to believe there is not any real intention of sending me,notwithstanding his Excellency's orders. I believe the intention is to detain a Portion of the Corps, whom they have found very useful such as Artificers, additional Gunners, Clerks and Servants, so much consideration is there for the Corps, or for me. It is the inconvenience that Individuals would suffer, that has caused the Detention of the 41st Regt in the Niagara District so long after it was ordered here, I am sorry to tell you that the 41st has lost all its books which were very complete, and consequently every Register, every Document. An irretrievable Loss. The Total want of Military Artificers in this District has been very injurious to the Service here, and you 331 known that no Corps in this district can spare additional Gunners to the other districts. We have not above five & twenty Gunners serviceable. I feel myself fortunate that you are still with the Army,1 if you were not, General Vincent would not be left at Liberty to Consider me at all. I begin to think you have Dickson with you. If he can be spared which I suppose will soon be the Case, he would be a powerful Assistant to me, and might soon reach Long Point. I am sorry to say that from the repeated & recent Treacheries of the Inhabitants of the River Raisin settlement it will not any longer be in my Power to preserve it. Our safety or rather that of the Territory is absolutely endangered by them.—They sent Information to the Enemy by which they had nearly cut off a Party of Indians. I understand that mr. Mr. Harrison has a Body of Horse, and that on their Vessels being ready we are to be attacked in different Quarters. The Enemy have certainly paid a visit last week at the said settlement, where I as certainly would have a Post, had I the means. I must mention the

wants among others, of Money and Indian Powder. I hope for some agreeable Information from your Quarter very shortly. In the meantime believe me

1 Though addressed “Capt. McDonall,” the letter was for our old friend Robert McDouall, who became lieutenant colonel next month, Aug., 1813; regarded by Proctor as his friend at headquarters.

truly Yours Henry Proctor

July 5 Dickson left Mackina twelve days since for this place Capt. McDonall &c &c &c

[C 679-p 177.]

BRIG. GEN. PROCTOR TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Sandwich July 4th 1813

Sir ,

I have the honor to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter of the 4th Ulto: and am fully sensible that this District has received a due share of Your Excellency's Attention. I beg to add that if I had received from the Niagara Line, the Reinforcement which you directed should be sent, I should by this time, have had it in my power, by the destruction of the Enemy's Vessels, in the Harbor of Presque isle, to have placed the Dock Yard, and Post of Amherst in a state of security, that under existing circumstances, it cannot be said they are in at present, however, the certainly more difficult to be effected, it may not be too late, if agreeable to Requisition. The remainder 332 of the 41st Regt are immediately sent to Long Point. There seems to have been with Respect to the Provincial Marine, a General error, which cannot rest with me, as I early reported to Major General Sir R Sheaffe that an entire change was as requisite on this as on the Lower Lake. Captain Barclay also arrived

here in Error. I am confident of the most cordial cooperation and aid from Captain Barclay whose arrival lessened considerably my anxiety. I have the honor to transmit a Letter from him to me, for Your Excellency's consideration. I have also to mention his strong desire to have some more of the R. N. F'land Reg: as his greatest reliance is on those of that corps at present, employed as Marines. The Service in this District has been much impeded by the total want of Military Artificers. I have reason to apprehend an Intention of detaining in the other District a portion of the 41st Reg: whom they have found useful as Artificers and others, which if so, I heartily hope will not be sanctioned, we have scarcely the means of constructing even a Blockhouse. I have the Pleasure to acquaint your Excellency that Mr. Dickson was at Mackina on the Eleventh ulto, but whether he is on the Route here, or gone by Lake Huron to York, I cannot at present say. The weather has been much against him lately. He had succeeded to the full extent of his hopes among the Indian Tribes.
I understand that Mr. Harrison has arrived at Fort Meggs on the Miami, with a body of horse, with which he is to advance into the Territory of Michigan whilst the Flotilla is to land Troops on our shore. Each of the Corvettes seen by Capt. Barclay he thinks equal to His Mty Ship the Queen Charlotte there were eleven vessels in the harbour of Presque isle. It will not any longer, from the repeated & secret Treacheries of the Inhabitants on the River Raisin be in my power to save that settlement. They endanger the safety of the Territory.1 They conveyed Intelligence to the Enemy which nearly caused a party of Indians to be cut off. It is incumbent on me to acquaint Your Excellency that the service has been much impeded by the very scanty and irregular supplies of money which have been received by the Commissariat in this district. I have the honor to be

1 This is a threat of dangerous import to the inhabitants of the River Raisin country.

With the highest respect Your Excellency's most obedt Servant Henry Proctor Bri. Genl. Comg.

Lt. Genl. Sir George Prevost Bt &c & Kingston

[C 679-p 181.]

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P. S. July 5th 1813

I have just had the satisfaction of seeing one of the vessels arrive from Mackina, and to learn that the other two are at no great distance Mr Dickson Cannot be far off having left Mackina twelve days since.1 If my requisition has been attended to, and Sir James Yeo sends any sailors, something will be done and Your Excellency's Directions obeyed, which were not however received from Mr Genl Sir R. Sheaffe. We are much in want of Indian Arms, and Ammunition, or rather Powder, The Enemy's Cavalry have ventured as far as the River Raisin, most of the Indian Nations have a Fear of Cavalry, The Inadequateness of my Troops has prevented my having a Post on the River Raisin

1 Depending greatly on Dickson's help, and pleased to believe that he is not far off.

Henry Proctor Br General

[C 679-p 185.]

MR. DUNLOP TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bart.

&c &c &c

I take the liberty to state to you that as far back as the month of April I received an order from Brigadier General Proctor at Sandwich to forward for him as soon as possible His stores for the ensueing Winter and when he suggested to me that it might be necessary to forward them by the way of Michilimackinac, I, on getting the order immediately applied

to Commissary Clarke to know if any Provision was made to forward goods by that route for officers and I again made the same application the other day but Mr. Clarke informs me that he has it not in his power to do any such thing and I now therefore take the liberty to apply to your Excellency to see if any thing can be done to make the Gentlemen who are so gallantly fighting our Battles Comfortable;—if you are pleased to do any thing in the matter, your order for the same Cannot come here too soon as the season is fast advancing and the distance is great that the goods are to be sent. —I hope Your Excellency has been enjoying good health, and every Comfort that the situation you are in admits of. Permit me to offer you my most warm Congratulations on the late successes of the Troops about 40 Mile Creek under General Vincent and to request I may be kindly remembered to Colonels Baynes and Brenton.—(Col. E. B. Brenton.)

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With most fervent wishes for your safety and happiness and that whatever you may put your hand, to, you may be successfull in, I am,

With the most high regard Esteem and regard Your mo obedt Servant James Dunlop

Montreal 5 July 1813

[C 679-p 195.]

FROM CAPTAIN BARCLAY—UNADDRESSED.

(*War—1812*)

Long Point July 6th 1813.

“I enclose a Statement of the Force of the rival Squadrons, & if prompt assistance is not sent up, altho' my officers and crews will do every thing that zeal and intrepidity can do the great superiority of the Enemy may prove fatal.

“I write this to Your Excellency in the hope that you will take the Squadron on Lake Erie into consideration, & that you will see the immense advantage that will accrue to the Enemy by being enabled to transport troops, either to annoy the Right of the Army under Genl. de Rottenburg or to cut off Genl. Proctor's communication with the Lower Province, except by land.

Indeed the whole line under Genl. Proctor must lay open to the Enemy in the event of their being able to make His Majesty's Squadron retire.

The Detroit1 will be ready to launch on the 20th Inst. but there is neither a sufficient quantity of ordnance, ammunition, or other stores, and not a man to put on her. If that vessel was on the Lake I would feel confident as to the result of any action they might choose to risk, but at the present, altho' for the good of His Majesty's Province I must attack, I cannot help saying that it is possible that they may have an advantage tho' I trust not a decided one.

1 This was the new Detroit, built at Amherstburg, and duly launched and commissioned. Surrendered to Perry, Put-in-Bay, Sept. 10, 1813. The old Detroit, formerly the Adams, captured at Detroit, and renamed. Recaptured in Niagara river and burned Oct. 9, 1812.

I have communicated with Sir J. Yeo on the same subject & if he from the exigencies of the service on Lake Ontario will not admit of his sending many seamen, even 50 would be of the greatest service at present, but it 335 will require at least 250 to 300 seamen to render His Majesty's Squadron perfectly effective.

I have &c [Signed] R. H. Barclay S. O. on L. E.

[C 679-p 197.]

A Statement of the Forces of the American Squadron, as Last Reconnoitred in the Harbour of Presque Isle June 28th

Two Brigs or Corvettes, in a forward state

Seven schooners Two Brigs Number of Guns unknown, but armed and manned1

1 See appendix.

The Corvettes appear to be both as large as the Queen Charlotte, but they are still in the inner harbour, not rigged or armed, but from their resources being so near at hand, I cannot reasonably expect they will be long in that situation.

(signed) R. H. Barclay S. O. on L. E.

TO MAJ. GEN. DEARBORN

(*War—1812*)

Quebec 11th July 1813

To His Excellency Major General Dearborn

Sir ,

I have this morning had the honor to receive Your Excellencys Letter of the 2nd Inst enclosing the copy of a letter you had received from the Hon James Munroe Yr Secretary of State accompanied by a copy of a list of American Prisoners of War.

Considered as exchanged in conformity to the principles agreed on & put in practice by the British Admiral at Halifax, and requesting my approbation to that Schedull which is annexed, being an acct for the exchange of Briga Genl Hull and certain officers named belonging to the Army of the United States, for the officers, non-commd officers and private soldiers of H. M., 1st Regt of foot captured on board the Samuel and Sarah transported by the U. S. frigate the Essex, Captain Porter.

I must confess to you that I feel some surprise at receiving this communication, and regret that circumstances will not allow me to afford my concurrence to the arrangement proposed.

So then the ground upon which I withhold my approbation, I take care to enclose for the information of your Government the copy of an official despatch I received in the month of Sept. last from Lt Genl Sir J. C. Sherbrooke Commanding H. M. Land Forces at Halifax, and from that letter it must be inferred that the Receipts from the American Agent for the crew of the U. S. Sloop Nautilus, and a sufficient number of other seamen belonging to the U. S. have expressed as being in exchange for the British Soldiers taken by the Samuel and Sarah and by the U. S. Frigate Essex.

My letter of the 6th Inst to which I beg to refer you, and the instructions contained in it for Major Murray, will I Trust convince you of my readiness to acquiesce in any arrangement, within my power for the exchange of Brigr Genl Hull and such other officers as are named by your Government.

I have the honor to be With high consideration Your Excellencys Most Obed humble Servant G. P.

[C 690-p 4.]

TO BRIG. GEN. PROCTOR—WITHOUT SIGNATURE

(*War—1812*)

Hd Qrs Kingston 11th July 1813

Dr Sir

Having sent Capt McDoual1 to England with Despatches your letter of the 29 ul. addressed to him I opened and was much pleased to find it contained a report of Mr. Dixon's arrival at Mackina on the 11th—Your wants have been supplied as far as I had the ability of doing so, & in addition to the specie & paper money & articles of clothing forwarded for the rifle Division from here in charge of Cap Chambers & D McLean a considerable supply of Shoes Trowsers &c were embarked in a flotilla going to York a few days ago for Detroit & Michilimackinac—The Ordnance and trance stores you require must be taken from the Enemy whose resources on Lake Erie must become yours—I am much mistaken if you do not find Capt Barclay well disposed to play that game—I conclude the whole of the 41st Regt is placed under your command—The presents for the Indians are not arrived from England, but

1 Capt. Robert McDouall, previously known to us, will be made lieutenant colonel when he makes report in England, so pleased is the Prince Regent.

337 I shall direct 200 guns for them to be purchased at Montreal & forwarded to you with a proportion of powder & ball by the Ottawa.

I request you will Communicate with me upon all occasions with the Characteristic frankness which distinguishes a Zealous & good soldier1

1 No signature; conjectured to be from Military Secretary Noah Freer, of Prevost's staff.

To Bre Gen Proctor

[C 679-p 216]

BRIG. GEN. PROCTOR TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Sandwich July 11th 1813

Sir

I did myself the honor of addressing Your Excellency on the 4th of July, and feel it incumbent on me to send you the enclosed Copy of a Letter, which I have received from Major General de Rottenburg. If I should appear to Your Excellency, to err in so doing, I hope it will be attributed to Zeal alone. My surprise and concern were equal on the reading of the said letter. I beg leave to say that we are fully confident of every Aid from Your Excellency, and of the fortunate result of the contest, if we are allowed to benefit by your consideration for us, but, I am unfortunately so situated, that your best intentions towards me are of no avail. By my Brigade Major I also was informed that the Major General “could not act in conjunction with me, and Captain Barclay on the Upper Lake at present; that he must first secure the command of the Lower Lake, after which there will be no difficulty in recovering the command of the Upper one.” With all due defference, I beg leave to dissent from the above. If means had been afforded me, which were no more than what Your Excellency has repeatedly directed should be sent me, I could, in all probability have effected the Destruction of the Enemy's Vessels at Presque isle and have secured the superiority of this Lake, and also in so doing, have made a powerful Diversion in favor of the Centre Devision. I am further of opinion, that if we lose the superiority of this Lake it will not be recovered without much difficulty.

Mr. Dickson might also have been landed on the Enemy's flank, or in his rear. Since I have been in this District a Retreat from it has never once occurred to me. It would be impossible, to retreat from it. The very attempt would make the Indians our Enemies. Nor should I conceive the 43 338 province lost, tho: certainly in Danger; in the event of any Disaster on Lake Ontario, provided Your Excellency's consideration for us was allowed to benefit us. There has uniformly been so much delay in sending me that Reinforcement directed to be sent me, that they have always arrived too late, for us to profit fully of them. I shall make some attempt on Sandusky, as I cannot venture to attack Presque isle without the remainder of the 41st Regt. Captain Barclay with all his means, goes to Long Point to

bring Lt. Colonel Evans, and in the hope of finding Naval stores there and sailors. If the Enemy's Vessels should be out an Engagement cannot be avoided and if they are not yet ready he will endeavor to keep them in the harbour. Besides the Detachment of the R. N. F. Land Reg:1 I have been obliged to send fifty men on Board the Vessels from the 41st Regiment and some of the Detachment under Lieut: Col: Evans will also be detained from necessity. I have the honor with Respect

1 Royal Newfoundland regiment.

Your Excellency's Most obedt Servant Henry Proctor Bri. Genl. Comg

Lt. Genl Sir George Prevost Bt.

[C 679-p 220.]

BRIG. GEN. PROCTOR TO COL. BRENTON

(*War—1812*)

Sandwich July 13th 1813

Sir

In answer to your letter of the 20th ulto: I have the honor to acquaint you for the information of his Excellency the Commander of the Forces, that Whitmore Knaggs left Detroit as a Prisoner of War on Parole,2 as those taken under the command of Genl Hull, had done, and that notwithstanding the certificate of Br Genl Winchester, he came in arms with the American Force to the settlement on the River Raisin always called Frenchtown, and was taken Prisoner near the scene of action from which he had ran off on the defeat of his people on the 22d of January last. He was of the Indian Department, and his house was plundered by the Indians, on the advance during the morning of the 16th of August

last, according to the example set by Mr. Hull's people on their march to the Canada Bridge, July last I have not sent from Detroit any individual, without mature Deliberation,

2 Knaggs claimed that he had never been paroled. 339

339 especially under circumstances of so serious a nature as the case in question. The Effrontery of these People equals their want of Principle. We have just discovered a deep and well laid scheme to effect the Defection of the Indians. The Prisoner Knaggs is a violent, dangerous man.1 He twice attempted Assassination. I propose sending the Particulars, for the consideration of his Excellency of the before mentioned Treachery

1 Apparently a report from Proctor to Knaggs' appeal to Gen. Prevost, enclosed to Gen. Glasgow at Quebec prison May 31, 1813. Knaggs was a good American and always fought fair.

I have the honor to be Sir Your obedt humble servt Henry Proctor Brig. Genl Com

Brenton Esqr &c &c

[C 679-p 244.]

BRIG. GEN. PROCTOR TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Sandwich July 13th 1813

Sir

I have already acquainted Your Excellency that Captain Barclay was to Sail with all his vessels for Long Point, where he is to embark Lt Col: Evans and one hundred men of the 41st Regt; and in the event of the Enemy's Vessels being still in the harbour of Presque isle, to endeavour to keep them there, until I can send him assistance, which can be soon

done, if sailors are sent immediately as I can send him assistance, which can be soon done, if sailors are sent immediately as I can find Guns that will sufficiently Arm the new vessel; the Detroit, untill those intended for her shall arrive. The Detroit will be launched in two days, which I am extremely anxious for, as she will then, in every Respect, be in much greater security, than on the stocks. I beg leave to observe that even an hundred seamen pushed on here immediately; would in all probability secure the superiority of this Lake; at all events enable us to appear on it, until further efforts may be made, I am already weakened on shore by my efforts to enable Captain Barclay to appear on the Lake, If he should receive an hundred seamen, I shall be necessitated to send more Soldiers on Board the Vessels to endeavour to supply the Deficiency he labours under, both in respect to the Number and the Quality of his sailors. I have the Mortification to find that my Indian Force, is not a disposable one, in some measure from the great Disproportion of my Regular Force. The Indians must be immediately employed and I am necessitated to Yield to their unanimous Desire of going to the Miami instead of Sandusky, 340 I shall do my best tho' I cannot take heavy Ordnance or have assistance of the Navy. The reinforcements which have been reluctantly afforded me notwithstanding Your Excellency's Intention's, have been so sparingly and tardilly sent me, as in a considerable degree to Defeat the purpose of their being sent. I have no hope of any Aid from the Centre Division where our situation is little understood, or has ever been a very secondary consideration. Three hundred sailors are requisite to man his Majesty's vessels on the Lake.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellencys Obedient servant Henry Proctor Bre: Genl Comg

Lt General Sir George Prevost Bt &c &c

[C 679-p 224.]

FROM CAPTAIN BARCLAY—UNADDRESSED

(*War—1812*)

New York 20th July 1813

Sir ,

I had the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3d of May, accompanied with a general return of Americans made Prisoners by His Majesty's Forces under your command, with nominal Rolls, or appendixes from 1 to 14.—No 15 mentioned in the general return, and in your letter was not enclosed, nor the return, also mentioned in your letter, of the British Soldiers made Prisoners by the Americans. I request you will have the goodness to order them to be sent to me, as they are both necessary. The latter in particular.

Appendix No. 9, is not a satisfactory document, whereon to found a specific charge for the Americans taken at Detroit the 17th of August 1812. I allude to the Militia under Coll Cass1 & others. This appendix after giving the round numbers, states it “is estimated from the numerical returns made by the commanding officers of the effective strength of their respective corps.”—Permit me to enquire, whether, when these men were paroled, there were not receipts, or some other acknowledgements taken for them; and what passed between the British officer, who had the management of this business, and the American commanding officers when the

1 Colonel (General) Lewis Cass.

341 returns were given in, and the men paroled. If any further information can be obtained, I request you will have the goodness to communicate it to me, as it is not my wish, if it can be avoided, to exhibit this charge for the officers, non commissioned and 1600 Privates taken at Detroit, before I am possessed of better evidence to substantiate the fact.

I have not yet had the satisfaction of receiving your answer to my letter of the 20th of May. The original was transmitted through this Government; and the duplicate sent via Halifax.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient and humble Servant Tho. Barclay 1

1 See appendix.

1537 2861 650 2271 2029 It is found policy — not to 3096 2181 155 1843 808 2339 2652 parole any more Prisoners — 3060 1829 650 3060 2584 650 3060 The moment they return they 94 2744 650 24 3406 2652 3073 move against us — This 1555 1164 1234 808 3035 3060 650 Government have told the officers 2082 808 3018 1604 3537 650 taken last year they were 3060 650 3438 650 142 808 1716 exchanged and made 3061 2744 94 2652 3060 650 them move again — The best 299 1783 3096 1716 3060 808 127 method to make the Americans 650 3095 2077 3060 3432 3478 tired of the war will 265 386 650 1566 808 3060 1122 be by keeping their relations 2517–21 142 650 1106 2339 2652 and friends prisoners — 16 1234 650 2363 3096 3060 650 I have proposed to the American 127 533 1140 2077 2339 3096 Commisr Genl of Prisoners to 342 1716 140 930 2077 808 127 1058 make an exchange of Prisoners for 3060 369 650 3148 650 3060 the British troops they 1234 2379 385 1234 2029 3542 have Prisoners but have not yet 650 2484 1267 151 2652 received his answer.

[C 689-p 195.]

MAJ. GEN. DE ROTTENBURG TO COLONEL BAYNES

(*War—1812*)

Head Quarters of the Army of the Centre St Davids 22d July 1813

Sir

The Deputy Inspector General of Indians affairs recommends Mr. Charles Spenhard who came down with La cloche Chippwas, and who has been employed since 25th May last, to be placed on the Pay list from the 25 June as Interpreter. He also recommends Mr George Reaupeau to be appointed Lieutenant vice Chew killed 27th May at Niagara,

the appointment to take place from 25th June—I have to request the Authority of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces for these appointments. You will be pleased to inform His Excellency that Captain McCoy 41st arrived here the day before yesterday from the army of the Right, stating that Br: General Proctor had been under the necessity of giving up his intended expedition against Presque isle and that he was proceeding with a large body of Indians to the Miami, in consequence of this information, the re-inforcements for Genl Proctor have been directed to proceed by the most direct and expeditious route to Sandwich instead of going to Long Point—Of the 120 men under Lt. Col. Evans of the 41st who had arrived at Long Point Capt. Barclay had taken 70 on board the Queen Charlotte, for the purpose of blockading the Harbour of Presqueisle, he stated to Lt Col: Evans, that without this reinforcement, it would be impossible for him to manage his Vessels—Lt Col: Evans has proceeded with the remainder to Sandwich.—The new Vessel at Amherstburg has been launched,1 but Capt. Barclay has neither, Guns, sails, or men to put into her. The Enemy's Squadron on Lake Erie is supposed to consist of Two Corvettes, 18 Guns each, and nearly ready for sea, with 10 other Vessels of different sizes.

1 This is the new Detroit, heretofore referred to. As finally made ready for service Capt. Barclay mounted 19 guns upon the ship.

The Enemy at Fort George expect re-inforcements from Sacketts Harbour, and Genl Dearborn is said to have left Fort George for that place.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Most obedt servt Francis De Rottenburg M. General

P. S.

Two of our Cavalry Videttes were taken yesterday by the Enemy The Adjutant General to the Forces &c &c &c

[C 679-p 272.]

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COLONEL BATTERSBY1 TO COLONEL BAYNES

(*War—1812*)

1 F Battersby, Lieut. Col. Glengary Light Infantry.

Burlington Heights 2 31st July 1813

2 He means on Burlington Bay, Lake Ontario.

My Dear Colonel

I arrived here at half past twelve last night & left my Brigade with Major Stewart about eight miles from this, having first ascertained with certainty, that the Enemy had reembarked the whole of the men he had landed in the forenoon—Carrying with him what live stock, and other plunder that was within his reach, and carrying off two or three of the Inhabitants What Troops they have on Board appear to be commanded by *a* Colonel Scott, & I am told Major Chapin was the first man that landed—Their fleet got under way this morning at daylight, and are now with their heads down the Lake, in line a Battle abreast—the Oneida & Pike on the Larboard quarter, the Maddison and all the small craft on the starboard—evidently expecting to come to action, & there is report of *eight* sail of our vessels being seen yesterday from the 40 mile creek.

As I found it impossible to bring the Guns by land, & considering that the great object was to throw myself into this place with my men, I embarked the Guns at the Humber under the charge of McKay, with directions to proceed by water as far as he could with safety, & I have now dispatched a militia officer by water to conduct them in, as I do not conceive there is the smallest risk—the Enemy not having a *single* vessel on the look out2 as has been their constant practice, since first I saw them.—General de Rottenburg had reinforced this post, (I think adequate to its defence) before my arrival, and I am anxious to know where I can turn my face too next. I wish he 344 may give me a day or twos rest, for

I do not expect the mens packs up before tomorrow evening at sunset—I moved as light as possible, but it is difficult to prevent officers & men from *encumbering* themselves with some little comforts.

12 at noon .

Lt O'Keefe has this moment arrived from Long Point with a letter from Captain Barclay, to Genl de Rottenburg. Captain B. has been obliged to return to Long Point owing to the weather.—“he represents the Enemy having everything near ready for hauling their vessels over the Bar—When that is done, we must retire to Amherstburg—the Detroit is launched but neither men or guns,—The Enemy's Military force at Presque-isle appear to be about 2,000,—General Proctor is at Fort Migs,1 (Meigs) & by a vessel just arrived from Amherstburg gives the following account—General Harrison had left Cleveland on his way to Fort Megs with 800 mounted men—Colonel Elliott, & Tecumseh with the Flank Company's of the 41st had gone to meet him, and had come up with his advance of 12 men, killed 10 & taken two prisoners, who said Harrison was a short distance in the rear, with the above number & a large quantity of horned cattle—General Proctor was at Fort Megs with the remainder of the 41st and Indians—report says he is about to mine one angle of the Fort. Mr. O'Keefe is just returning to join the Queen Charlotte, he has about 150 men of his regiment on board the different vessels.—

1 See appendix.

I have just learned that our Guns are coming by land from the Credit, and may probably arrive this night or tomorrow morning—

I believe some attempt was made upon our left at 4 mile Creek last night or this morning. The Enemy were driven back with some loss.

My Dear Colonel Yours truly F Battersby

I am obliged to direct this under cover to His Excellency as no extra despatch is *permitted* to go, unless so addressed & I know from a billet I had this morning from Coln Harvey that he conceives the communication cut off, Sir George must be anxious & I enclose it F. B.

Colonel Baynes Adjt General Kingston

[C 679-p 517.]

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FROM MAJ. GEN. DE ROTTENBURG—UNADDRESSED

(*War—1812*)

Headquarters of the Army of the Centre St. Davids 1st August 1813

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th ulto: and I am happy to state for the information of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces, that the enemy has been foiled in his attempt to surprise Burlington Heights, the enclosed reports I received in the night will furnish you with the detail of the occurrence—It seems the Enemy's fleet is doing as much mischief as they can, We all day yesterday could perceive smoke arising from burning houses around the Coast—Col: Battersby's moveable Column is directed to move on again towards York, and watch the Enemy's operations in that Quarter. Capt: Colemans troop and veterans will now proceed immediately for Sandwich.

I have not received any despatches from Genl. Proctor, but Capt. Barclay writes me from Long Point July 30th that he had received a letter from Amherstburg the day before stating that Genl Proctor had left that place on the 19th for the Miami river in his attempts to dislodge the American Army at Fort May1 but nothing had transpired except that he had arrived safely within three miles that Post on the 21st. General Harrison was expected

to join General Green Clay with a reinforcement of 800 men, for which purpose he was advancing by Cleveland— Bri Genl. Proctor had intimation of his design, and sent a party of the 41st Regt with 800 or 900 Indians by the Lake to that River, to endeavour to cut him off, He also states that the moment the seamen arrived, he would proceed to Genl. Proctor, land the men of the 41st he has on board, and go immediately to Amherstburg to equip the Detroit.

1 Ft. Meigs—and Proctor failed, as De Rottenburg will later on be informed.

I request that you will state to His Excellency that I am perfectly recovered.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedt servant Francis De Rottenburg M General

The Cyphered dispatch of the 26 has been recd. The troops the Enemy send, were embarked at Fort George—By driving in the Piquets yesterday the Enemy's Position at Fort George was closely reconoitered their Entrenchment very strong and they had about 3000 men under Arms. 44

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MAJ. GEN. SHEAFFE TO COL. BRENTON

(*War—1812*)

Montreal , 2nd August 1813

We are preparing with as much speed as possible to get the supplies for Amherstburg despatched—Indians cannot be obtained—but the N. W. Compy has undertaken to furnish everything, in which we are deficient, and to complete the whole arrangement.—

An officer who left the island yesterday evening—reports that an American and a deserter from the Canadians had been by one of our look out parties from the island—The American wanted to find out if we were employing Indians.—the officer says it was

supposed from appearances in that direction that the Barracks at Plattsburg were burnt—I am going over, perhaps I may learn something in time for the express tomorrow. I send an extract of a letter from M. Genl. Glasgow—An officer and twenty one seamen arrived this morning in the steamboat—and will proceed to Chambly, and, if possible, to St. John's to day: There are seven seamen for the upper province—they will proceed immediately—Lt. Woodriff has gone to the Island to get volunteers from the Transport there for Lake Ontario.

May success attend us.

Yours truly, W. H. Sheaffe , &c

L. Col: Brenton &c &c &c

[C 679-p 301.]

MAJ. GEN. DE ROTTENBURG TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Head Quarters of the Army of the Centre St. Davids August 3d 1813.

Sir

I have received in due time, Your Excellencys letter of the 23d Ulto: transmitting an extract from a letter of B. Genl. Proctor relative to the mode of retreat. I had suggested for the Army under his command in the event of such a measure becoming necessary. I acknowledge my error in not having first submitted my ideas for Your Excellency's consideration1 —was directed by Your Excellency to point out a retreat for Genl. Proctor in

1 See p. 329, De Rottenburg to Proctor. This letter is an apology, called forth probably by a complaint from Proctor.

347 case that officer should not be able to fall back upon the Head of the Lake, and the proposal of the Gentlemen of the North West company appeared to me the only one to be attempted in case the other could not be effected.—The North West company in offering their services were not actuated by sordid motives, for they would have left all their Furs in deposit, and relied upon a loan from Government equal to the value of the return, until they could get their property to market.—I join with Your Excellency in admiring the spirit of General Proctor, in rejecting the idea of a retreat1 but I cannot help observing that it would have been fair in that officer, in answer to my letter, to state his objection to me and the impossibility of putting my proposal into execution circumstanced as he is in regard to his Indian Force—

1 De Rottenburg could stand Proctor's objections to the suggested Lake Huron-Ottawa line of retreat but could not stand Proctor's calling Prevost's attention to the matter.

I have the honor to be most Respectfully Your Excellency's most obedt and most humble servant Francis De Rottenburg M General

His Excellency The Commander of the Forces &c &c

[C 679-p 327.]

BRIG. GEN. PROCTOR TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Sandwich August 9th 1813

Sir

It being absolutely requisite, for several urgent Reasons, that my Indian Force should not remain unemployed, and being well aware that it would not be moveable except accompanied by a regular Force, I resolved, notwithstanding the smallness of that Force

to move, and where we might be fed at the expense of the Enemy, I had however the mortification to find that instead of the Indian Force being a disposable one, or under my direction, our movements should be subject to the Caprices and Prejudices of the Indian body, to the Degree in which my regular Force was disproportionate to their numbers. For several Days after the arrival of Mr. R. Dickson his Indians were restrainable, and tractable to a Degree, that I could not have conceived possible. I am sorry to add that they have been contaminated, by the other Indians. I was, very contrary to my judgement, 348 necessitated to go to the Miami, in the vicinity of the Enemys Fort, where I remained a few Days, in the hope that General Harrison might come to the relief of the Fort which was invested,1 in the Indian mode, when finding that the Indians were returning to Detroit and Amherstburg I moved to lower Sandusky where however we could not muster more hundreds of Indians than I might reasonably have expected thousands. The neighbourhood of the Sandusky, and the settlement on the Huron River, eight miles below it, could have afforded cattle sufficient to have fed my whole Indian Force for some time, had they been induced to accompany us. Sandusky is nearly fifty miles by water from Lake Erie; and nearly forty from several Points whence strong Re-inforcements might be expected; I could not therefore with my very small force remain more than two days, from the Probability of being cut off, and of being deserted by the Few Indians who had not already done so. The Fort at Sandusky is composed of Blockhouses connected by Picketing which they flank, and is calculated for a Garrison of five or six hundred men. On viewing the Fort I formed an opinion entirely different from any Person under my command.2 The General idea being that the Garrison did not exceed fifty men, and that the Fort could be easily carried by assault. On the morning of the 2d Instant the Gentlemen of the Indian Department who have the direction of it, declared formally their decided opinion that unless the Fort was stormed we should never be able to bring an Indian warrior into the Field with us, and that they proposed, and were ready to storm one Face of the Fort, if we attempt another. I have also to observe, that, in this instance, my Judgement had not that weight with the Troops, I hope might reasonably have been expected. If I had withdrawn without having permitted the assault, as my judgement

certainly dictated, much dissatisfaction would have followed me, and I could scarcely have Continued to direct their movements. I thus with all the responsibility resting on me, was obliged to yield to circumstances I could not possibly have prevented. The Troops, after the Artillery had been used for some hours, attacked two Faces, and, Impossibilities being attempted failed. The Fort from which the severest Fire I ever saw was maintained during the attack, was well defended. The troops displayed the greatest Bravery, the much greater part of whom reached the Fort and made every effort to enter; but the Indians who had proposed the assault, and had it not been assented to, would have ever stigmatized the British character, scarcely came into Fire, before they ran off out of its reach. A more than adequate Sacrifice having been made to Indian Opinion, I drew off the brave assailants who had been carried away by a High sense of Honor to urge too strongly the attack. I enclose a disembarcation Return which

1 This is the strategy that failed to draw old Gen. Green Clay out of Ft. Meigs July 25.

2 See appendix.

349 will show how small my disposable Force was. The enemy had a six pounder, and smaller one in the Fort. I also enclose a return of the killed, wounded, and missing. Our Loss tho' severe, and much to be regretted, is Less every thing considered than could have been expected. You will perceive that the Indian Force is seldom a disposable one, never to be relied on, in the hour of need, and only to be found useful in Proportion as we are independent of it.1 Ten Indians were surprised on a plain near Sandusky and were cut to Pieces. The Indians have always had a dread of Cavalry, of which the Enemy have a considerable number. A troop of the 19th would be of the greatest service here, in the confidence they would give to our mounted Indians. I have experienced much Deficiency in my Artillery, another officer at least, is absolute required, and one of science and experience. The Enemy's Defences are composed of Wood, if we knew how to burn them, as they did ours at Fort George, Mr. Harrison's Army must have been destroyed long since. The Enemy's Vessel's are out of Presqu isle harbour, and so decidedly stronger than ours, that Capt. Barclay has been necessitated to return to Amherstburg, and with all

haste to get the new vessel ready for sea, which she will be in Eight or ten days at farthest, and then only want Hands, whatever may happen, to be regretted, may be fairly attributed to the Delays in sending here the Force Your Excellency directed should be sent. Had it been sent at once, it could have been used to the greatest advantage, but, it arrived in such small Portions, and with such delays that the opportunity's have been lost. The Enemy are in great numbers at Presque isle, and have been already re-inforced at Fort Meggs. General Harrison's Head Quarters are near lower Sandusky where he arrived on the 3d Instant. I must now look for the Enemy form two Quarters, and will have to meet them with my small Force devided for the Indians will make no stand without us. You will probably hear of the Enemy's Landing shortly at Long Point, whence they may gain the Rear of the Centre Division and also affect my supplies. An hundred and fifty sailors would have effectually obviated this Evil. I apprehend the Enemy's rapid advance to the River Raisin in Force, & establish himself there which he can do surprisingly soon. If I had the means I would establish a Post at that River, but not having two or three hundred to send there it is not in my Power. I must entreat Your Excellency to send me more troops, even the second Battalion of the 41st Regt tho' weak would be extremely acceptable. If the Enemy should be able to Establish themselves in the Territory it will operate strongly against us with our Indians Allies. Your Excellency may rely on my best endeavours, but I rely on the Troops alone, and they are but Few, and I am

1 Red men fallen into disesteem; possibly, too, “the gentlemen of the Indian Department who have the direction” of them, and the string of Tecumseh's retort may still rankle.

350 necessitated to man the vessels with them. I have never desponded, nor do I now, but I conceive it my Duty to state to Your Excellency the Inadequateness of my Force.

I have the honor to be With much respect Your Excellency's Obedient Servant Henry Proctor Brigr General Comg

August 12th 1813 His Excellency Lt General Sir Geo. Prevost Bt & & Kingston

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[C 679-p 371.]

FROM THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF—UNADDRESSED

(*War—1812*)

Horse Guards 10th August 1813

Sir ,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Dispatches, dated the 1st, 3d, 15th and 23d of June, presented to me by the hands of your Aide de Camp, Major, now Lieut. Col. Mac Donall.1

1 Col. McDouall, previously noted, now receives his promotion from the commander-in-chief at London.

I have derived great satisfaction from your report of the conduct of the Troops under your command in the enterprise against Sacket's Harbour. detailed in your dispatch of the 1st of June; and the judicious arrangements you adopted for the Conduct of that Service as a Diversion in favor of the Force under Major General Vincent, demand my full approbation.

It is with peculiar satisfaction also, that I have received your Report of the successful result of an attack made by a Division of the Army under the latter officer upon the advanced camp of the enemy upon the 6th June. The Judgement & talent evinced by the conception of that gallant enterprise, and the glorious conduct of the Troops in carrying it into execution, against a greatly superior Force are too conspicuous to fail of meeting with that approval which valor and Discipline must ever receive!

I am therefore authorized by His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, to desire, that you will be pleased to convey to Major General Vincent, Lt. Col. Harvey and the officers and

men composing the brave detachment which has signalized itself upon this occasion, the thanks of His Royal Highness, in my name, for their judicious and gallant conduct.

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In considering the limited means placed in your hands, as opposed to the more immediate and efficient Resources of the Enemy, I cannot but feel the difficulty attending the arduous service entrusted to your guidance, and which you have so forcibly represented in your Dispatch of the 23d June—I have every reliance, however, in your zeal, judgment & activity; being convinced that these qualities, aided by the superior discipline and gallantry of His Majesty's Troops, will not fail of being attended with all the success that may in reason be looked for, in the issue of your operations.

In furtherence of these intentions the 70th Regt. has received orders for immediate embarkation at Cork for Quebec, and the earliest possible arrangements will be made for passing the 90th Regt. from the West Indies, to relieve the 98th at Halifax, in order that the latter may be placed under your immediate command.

A 7th Batt. of the 60th Regiment is now forming which will be destined to the Garrison of Halifax to render the 90th above 1000 strong, disposable for Canada early in the ensuing Spring.

With regard to general officers, I have submitted to the Prince Regent, that Lieut Genl. Gordon Drummond.1 shall be placed under your command; and I trust you will receive effectual aid from his zeal intelligence & local knowledge—M. Genl. Riall1 an active and intelligent young man, has also been placed upon your staff, and orders will be transmitted to you for the return of Sir R. Sheaffe and M. Genl. de Rottenburg to this country with a view to other employment.

1 See appendix.

I have only to express my readiness to afford every attention in my power to your wants and representations.

I am Sir Yours Frederick Commander in Chief.

Although according to precedent the recent services you have reported, however brilliant in themselves, may not be considered of such magnitude as to sanction the dispatch of an Aide de Camp, yet under all the circumstances of the case—and particularly as a mark of personal attention to your wishes, I have been induced to recommend Major MacDonall for the Brevet Rank of Lieut. Colonel.

F. C. C.

[C 679-p 382]

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EARL BATHURST TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Downing Street 10th August 1813

Sir ,

I have had the honor of the receiving your several Dispatches of the dates & numbers specified in the margin, & have laid them before His Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

It gives me great satisfaction to be able to assure your Excellency that your conduct meets with His Royal Highness's approbation; I am also commanded by His Royal Highness to direct your Excellency to inform M. Genl. Proctor that His Royal Highness is fully sensible of the Judgement spirit and perseverance manifested by M. Genl. Proctor in the course of his arduous exertions to keep in check M. Genl. Harrison's Army.

You will convey to Br. Genl. Vincent His Royal Highnesses approbation of the enterprizing spirit, and professional ability displayed by Lt. Col. Harvey in suggesting and by Br. Genl. Vincent in making the attack on the advance of the American Army on the 6th of June near Burlington.

The attack on Sackett's Harbour by the force under the command of Col. Baynes (altho' from circumstances which could not be prevented, it was not ultimately successful to the utmost extent) appears to His Royal Highness to reflect great honour on that officer, and I am most particularly commanded by His Royal Highness to direct you to convey to the officers, and also to the non-commissioned officers and men serving in the several Divisions of your army above mentioned, His Royal Highness's sense of the essential services which the skill of the former & the Discipline of the latter, and valour of all, have contributed to the Defence of His Majesty's Possessions in the Canadas.

I have the honour to be Sir, your most obedt huml. Servant Bathurst

To Lieut General Sir Geo. Prevost &c. &c. &c.

[C 679-p 395]

CAPTAIN CHAMBERS TO SECRETARY FREER

(*War—1812*)

Amherstburg , 12th Augt 1813

Sir ,

Since I had the honor of writing to you on the 10th Instant the Fleet have arrived here1 — the American Fleet are out, every exertion is making to

1 See appendix.

353 equip the Detroit she will be a very formidable vessel when equipped, but we feel the want of seamen extremely since our return from Sandusky. The General sent a flag of truce to that place, the officer saw General Harrison and learned, that he was within three miles of our army (the enemy attacked the Fort) with a large body of men, had General Harrison advanced that night it is probable we should have been cut off. I have nothing particular to communicate at present, I enclose a return of the Troops that have arrived at this division of the army.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient Humble servant P. D. Chambers Capt. Dy As Q Mr General

Noah Freer Esqr Military Secretary Quebec

[C 679-p 418]

Return of the Arrival of Troops at the Right Division of the Army Amherstburg 18131

1 This return totals a reinforcement 396 officers and men received by Proctor just preceding the battle of Put-in-Bay.

Date of Arrival 1813 Corps Lt. Colonels Majors Captains Lieutenants Ensigns Serjeants Corporals Drummers Rank & file. 24 July 41st Regiment 1 1 8 Serjeant McGuire 27 “ 41st Regiment 1 1 2 2 2 1 43 Lieut. Coll Evans 2 Augt. 41st Regiment 1 1 1 4 8 100 Captain McCoy 5 “ 41st Regiment 1 2 8 5 1 60 Captain Crouther 5 “ R. N. F. Ld Regt 1 1 2 2 2 41 Captain Whealan.—N. B. One private left behind. 10 “ 41st Regiment 1 72 Lt O'Keefe not joined. The men were embarked on board the Squadron at Long Point 10 “ 41st Regiment 1 19 Serjeant Purcell not joined

P. D. Chambers Captain D. Asst Qr. Mr General 45

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BRIG. GEN. PROCTOR TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Library of Congress

Sandwich , August 18th 1813

Sir

In my last letter to Your Excellency, I mentioned the Return of Capt Barclay to Amherstburg. A small vessel was sent to the Islands to give the Earliest Intimation of the Enemy's approach. She arrived the evening before last, having very narrowly escaped the Enemy's Fleet twelve sail. We have been in hourly expectation of seeing them ever since, I now suppose they are establishing themselves on the Bass Islands which from Putin Bay, An Excellent harbour, and which I would have occupied, if I had had the means. The Detroit is ready, and if we had seamen a few hours would place this district in security, which it is incumbent on me to say, is not the Case under present Circumstances. My force must be still more devided on the advance of the Enemy, and as I man the Fleet my loss must be great. I entreat Your Excellency to send me the means of Continuing the contest. I do not expect the least Assistance from the Centre division. The Fleet drop down to the Bar,1 this evening or early to-morrow morning, as the best situation to meet the Enemy's vessels. should a Landing be attempted it will not be possible to avoid the Risk of an action, tho' without seamen and the Enemy's vessels well manned. We are disposing of the Indians, or rather endeavouring so to do, to the best advantage. Your Excellency will find that we will do our Duty, but I heartily hope for More Assistance form You. A troop of the 19th would be of essential Aid, I shall Continue to write whilst we are in a Situation that may excite a particular Interest such as the present

1 Bar point, where Detroit river opens into Lake Erie. The point is six miles below Amherstburg.

I have the honor to be Your Excellency's Obedient Servant Henry Proctor Brigd General Comg

His Excellency Lt Genl. Sir George Prevost &c &c Kingston

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[C 679-p 447.]

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BRIG. GEN. PROCTOR TO COLONEL BAYNES

(*War—1812*)

Sandwich , August 19th 1813

Sir

I have been confidently, since the receipt of Your Letter of the 18th of June, in expectation of the arrival of a Captain & Reinforcement of Artillery, of whom, I do assure you, I have felt the want. Being situated at the Extremity of a Long line, I do not feel the full effects of His Excellency consideration for me, the Aid intended never reaches me undiminished, from some circumstance or another. In a former Letter to you I endeavoured to show the Extra Fatigue as well as Dissatisfaction I experienced from the Deficiency of Staff in the Division under my command. An officer in the Adjutant Generals Department active and acquainted with the Duties thereof, would afford me much relief. I am satisfied with my Brigade Major, but his duties, at present, are more that one Person can perform satisfactorily. My active duties are too much interrupted, from the want of aid in those of the office. I shall endeavour to select an officer to relieve Capt. Roberts of the 10th Royal Veteran Battalion, whose conduct, I trust will meet with His Excellency's approbation.
My Knowledge of local circumstances and of the Indian character in the Portion of the Upper Province, or as Mr. Maddison calls it Uppermost Canada has been of late much encreased. The safety of this District requires an increase to my regular Force, that our Dependance on the Indian Force may not appear to so great a decree, as it has hitherto done. The Tuscarora Indians would not have acted against Lt. Colonel Bishopp's Force had it not been so small. It is much to be regretted that they have commenced acting against us. The only effectual measure to prevent the same Evil occurring here is to

increase my Force. I must further state it is requisite even to prevent Defection among the Indian Tribes, which ought strenuously to be guarded against, from the Propensity of Indians to follow each other, on the most unaccountable Impulse at times.1 Your are aware that there are in the states considerable Bodies of Indians, several of them the same nations of those with us, and on whom the Enemy are, by every Act and Means in their Power, endeavouring to operate to our disadvantage. Tho' I have purchased Indian Goods, the issue of presents to the Indians has been so inadequate, as to give some advantage to our Enemy, whose Emissaries here are neither few nor inactive. Major Genl. de Rottenburg says that he “Knows by Experience that no Reliance can be placed upon Indians, that they move off at the moment they are most wanted.” I have only to say, that I have manned

1 As for instance at Ft. Stephenson, and Croghan's grape-shot, when they followed out of fire.

356 the Fleet, and Armed the Detroit, and that I look hourly for the Enemy in two Points, in considerable numbers, and must therefore meet him, with a divided, with a reduced Force. I begin to think I shall never have an opportunity of meeting the Enemy on Terms of Equality. He will have more thousands than I can produce hundreds of Regulars, My only real Reliance. A supply of seamen of whom we have not any immediate hope, would give us a fair prospect. Our only consolation must be in doing our Duty.

I have the honor to be Sir Your faithful servant Henry Proctor Brig: General Comg

P. S. 22d Much Benefit will arise from His Excellency's order of the 7th Instant Respecting the Distribution of Presents to the Indians. Influence will now rest where it ought1 and His Majesty's Bounty flow in the proper channels. I beg leave to observe that the boys or very young men in the 2d Battalion of the 41st Regiment might be employed to the same advantage here, in Defensive Positions as men fittest for service.

1 Probably more in the commanding general and less with “the gentlemen of the Indian department,” our friend R. Dickson and the others.

H. Proctor

Colonel Baynes Adjt. General Kingston

[C 679-p 456.]

CAPTAIN CHAMBERS TO SECRETARY FREER

(*War—1812*)

Amherstburg 22d August 1813

Sir

Nothing of consequence has transpired since I wrote last, the Enemy are collecting their Troops at Sandusky, from there the attack will be made either here or at Long Point, I suspect the latter, we have not been able to learn anything about the Enemy's Fleet ours is ready as far as want of hands can render it so, the Detroit is a Beautiful and a very formidable ship. I enclose a return of the Dragoons that have arrived.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Most obedt humble Servant P. D. Chambers Dr. Ass. Qr Mr. Genl.

Noah Freer Esq M S

[C 679-p 471.]

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TO MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR—WITHOUT SIGNATURE

(*War—1812*)

Head Quarters—St Davids August 22d 1813

Major General Proctor

Sir

I have had the honor to receive your letters of the 9th & 18th Inst: the first I received at York in my way to the Centre Division & I cannot refrain from expressing my regret at your having allowed the clamour of the Indian Warriors to induce you to commit a part of your valuable force in an unequal & hopeless combat.

You cannot be ignorant of the limited nature of the force at my disposal for the defence of an extensive frontier, and *ought therefore* not to count too largely upon my disposition to strengthen the right division.

The 2d Battn of the 41st Regt. is under orders to move forward to your support but when it will arrive at Amherstburg is uncertain. I have also ordered a second Captain of Artillery with a N. C. offr & 18 Gunners from Lower Canada to reinforce your Division, of the three troops Ships which arrived with De Morrou's Regt two have conveyed to Halifax 500 Amr Prisoners of war & the third (the Dover) is laid up on consequence of my having directed three fourths of her officers & seamen to be landed and sent forward for the naval service on the Lakes. I have the satisfaction to inform you that the first Lt of that ship with 50 or 60 seamen are now at Kingston from whence they are to be forwarded without delay to Amherstburg. You will make this circumstance known to Capt Barclay. You will not fail in forwarding frequent and very particular details of the state of public affairs in the Western District as the movements I have made to this from the Centre of operations has arrisen in a great measure from my anxiety respecting your situation, and altho' it may be one of some difficulty you cannot fail in honorably surmounting it notwithstanding the numerical

superiority of the Enemy's force which I cannot but consider as overbalanced by the excellent description of your troops and seamen, valorous and well Disciplined.

The experience obtained by Sir Jas. Yeo conduct towards a Fleet infinitely superior to the one under his command will satisfy Capt. Barclay that he has only to dare & the Enemy is discomfited.1

1 Barclay proved sufficiently daring; the sequel was different from the expectation.

It will afford me much satisfaction to learn that a spirit of cordiality exists between the two services & that you have succeeded in conciliating the well disposed Inhabitants & that the Indian Warriors are once more able and willing to assist powerfully in the defence of your position—

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I conclude that M. Genl. de R. requisition for the temporary aid of 4 or 500 Indians has been compiled with by you & their leaders,

INDIAN COUNCIL

(*Indians*)

Amherstburg 23d August 10 o'clock P. M.

Just returned from Brownstown—at a council called by the hurons at which Col. Elliott Captain Chambers & Capt. McKee were present, the following speech was delivered by the Wyandotts & Senekas & by General Harrison and their respective chiefs.

We salute our Father & our Brethren & return thanks to the Great Spirit who has been pleased to allow them to meet at this council.

General Harrison desires me to address the Chiefs—that having taken into consideration the long time the different nations have been separated has sent this deputation to speak with their Friends.

He has selected seven Hurons & one Seneka to tell (as he always intended to do.) their Brethren who is alongside of their English Father that he is now ready & that his Fleet are also prepared at Sandusky Bay. There are now eleven large ships ready. He wishes the chiefs to take pity on their women & children & seriously consider their situation & listen to what has been said: He wishes those chiefs who will listen to his words to come & talk with him & those who wish to stand before him like men he will meet them.

Those Nations who have any wish to treat may come forward see my face come & return unmolested.

Your English Father deceives his Children very much he never informs them of the battles that have been fought below, has made three attempts on one Fort but has not succeeded, this is the time if any Chief of the Tribes will step forward & take him by the hand.

Gl. Harrisons Speech ends.

The four different Nations viz Hurons Senekas Delawares & Shawanese spoke upon a large bunch of white wampum & refused General Harrison's Proposals—the wampum being offered it was not accepted by any nation but was returned with the following speech.

The chiefs having consulted amongst themselves replied as follows.

We are happy to learn your Father is coming out of his Hole as he has been like a ground Hog under the ground & will save us much trouble in

1 Harrison was not present at this council. He entrusted his verbal communication to the “seven Hurons and one Seneca.” Elliott and other British agents attended.

359 traveling to meet him—We recommend you to remain at home & take no part in the war—Col. Elliott desired the interpreter to tell them that their American Father deceives them he has not told you of the loss of his four large vessels the other day, nor has he told you what has been done on Lake Champlain, or how penned up in Niagara. However our English Father does not brag his actions speak for themselves. Col. Elliott then handed them the general order of the destruction of the Enemy's stores &c on Lake Champlain & advised them to give it to General Harrison with his compliments.

The deputation answered—

They hoped their British Father would not serve them as they had done the last war, but that the Great Spirit would give him Power to throw the Americans upon, their Backs so that they might enjoy Peace hereafter.

M. Elliott

[C 257-p 139.]

CAPTAIN CHAMBERS TO SECRETARY FREER

(*War—1812*)

Amherstburg 26 August 1813

Sir

I have the honor to inform you that the Enemy's Squadron appeared off our Harbour yesterday,1 it consisted of nine sail two of them stout Brigs, about one o'clock P. M. they stood away for the Islands, since when we have not seen them, there is a report that a

great number of boats, and gun boats were yesterday at the Islands, eight Indians Senaka & Wyandots were put in a few days since, with a message from General Harrison to endeavour to prevail on our Indians to abandon us, but their message was treated with the greatest contempt, and at one time I thought they would have been tomahawked, however they were permitted to depart nothing could be more noble that the behaviour of our Indians.

1 See appendix.

I am of opinion that we shall be very shortly attacked here if we had but a few sailors the Business would be soon settled.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient Humble Servant P. D. Chambers Dy. As: Qr M Genl.

Noah Freer Esq.

[C 679-p 445.]

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BRIG. GEN. PROCTOR TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Sandwich August 26th 1813

Sir

I have had the honor to receive Your Excellency's Letter of the 22d Instant Captain Barclay was immediately acquainted that an officer and fifty or sixty seamen were on the way here, I beg to say that a more essential Piece of service could not be rendered to us here by an active Zealous officer, than to push them on by the quickest possible means, for I

assure your Excellency we are peculiarly in need of them. both officers and seamen. If I had not even received Your Commands to communicate with Your Excellency, with the Frankness of a zealous Soldier, I should have felt it My Duty to Expose to you whatever the Good of the Service made it requisite You should know. Your Excellency speaks of Seamen, Valorous and well disciplined. Except, I believe the 25 whom Capt Barclay brought with him, there are none of that Description on this Lake, at least on board His Majesty's Vessels. There are scarcely enough, and of a Miserable Description to work the Vessels, some of which Cannot be used for want of hands, such even as we have. I have the highest opinion of Captain Barclay and have afforded him every Aid I possibly could. We have set too strong an Example of Cordiality, not to have it prevail thro' both services. We have but the one object in View, the Good of His Majesty's Service, or Preservation of this District. Captain Barclay, has besides the Royal Newfd Land, one hundred and fifty of the 41st Regt better soldiers there cannot be, but they are only landsmen. I beg to observe that Sir James Yeo was over manned with prime seamen, British I have reason to believe that the Indians will heartily oppose the Enemy; and that we stand rather high in their opinion, tho' they observe the Enemy's Fleet on the Lake, possessing the command of it. Your Excellency is aware that the Indian Body is seldom disposable, never so, Contrary to their opinion, or Inclination. Mr. Harrison has informed them of his Intention to advance, and they Expect him, therefore no influence will or can prevail on them, or any Part of them, to leave their families; especially whilst the Enemy can chose his points of attack. That is whilst he has the Command of the Lake. I will venture to offer my opinion to Your Excellency that as long as Captain Barclay without seamen can avoid the Enemy he Should do so.1 All my ordnance is on Board except the Field, and in the Event of any Disaster to the Fleet, the Arrival of any Body of seamen would be of no use whatever. seamen should be pushed on even

1 By this remark Proctor displayed better judgment than the commander-in-chief, who, in the preceding letter concluded that “Barclay has only to dare and the enemy will be discomfited.”

361 by Dozens. I shall send to have Conveyances ready for them, a few hours gained is or may be of the greatest Consequence not only to us, but to the Upper Province. The Fleet once manned, one Flank secured, I have no doubt that a body of Indians may be induced to move to the Centre Division on a Prospect of being actively employed with the Troops. The Enemy's Fleet reconnoitred ours, laying off Hartley's Point, Three Miles below Amherstburg.1 They Anchored off the Settlement twenty miles below Amherstburg, Boats are collecting in Numbers at the Islands.

1 Perry's cruise of Aug. 25, with wind in an unfavorable quarter.

I have the honor to be with the highest Respect Your Excellency's obedient Servant Henry Proctor Maj: Genl Comg

His Excellency Lt. Genl Sir George prevost Bt &c &c St Davids

[C 679-p 494.]

TO MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR—WITHOUT SIGNATURE

(*War—1812*)

Major Genl. Proctor Comg the Right Division Sandwich

(*Very rough draft in Freer's writing* .)

Hd Qr St. Davids

Sir ,

I am directed by the C of the F. to acknowledge his receipt of yr letter to the Adjt. Genl of the 29th Inst. opened by His Excelly. upon its arrival here this morning; Sir Geo. Prevost with every disposition to strengthen the Staff of the Division of the army under yr care, as far as circumstances will admit, has been pleased to appoint Lt. Maclean of the 41st

Regt. to be yr Aide de Camp, the rank of that officer not qualifying him to be confirmed as a Major of Brigade—Capt. Hall of the Can. Fencibles is appd & attached to the Right Division Major of Brigade but is to continue his superintendence of the cavalry without any additional pay other than that of his staff situation. 46

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The Acting Dy. Qr. M. General will acquaint you with the Reinforcement intended for the Right Division.

It is the desire of the Comr of the Forces that you will endeavour to persuade 600 warriors to accompany Mr. Dickson's Indians & join the centre Division forthwith;—1

1 Indian assistance requested by De Rottenburg.

His Excelly's Letter to you—the 22nd Inst. will have informed you of a part of the crew of the Dover Troop Ship consisting of one full Lt, 2 midshipmen 2 petty officers and about 50 seamen being on their way for the service of Lake Erie—they have probably by this time arrived at York.

The Comr of the forces having had under consideration a memorial from Capt. Hall of the Provincial Marine relation to his having been discontinued in that Dept by the order of Capt Barclay, His Excelly. is decided upon the case of that officer, desirous that his name should be retained and that a provision be afforded for the maintenance of his family, has been pleased to approve of his being appd a superintendent of the Dock Yard & Naval Stores at Amherstburg, taking charge of and accounting for the receipt and issue of the stores and directs that he should be allowed the same pay and allowance as formerly, from the period he ceased to draw his pay as a Comy. and until further orders.

The Comr. of the forces has directed me at the same time to observe to you that the authority of Capt. Barclay does not extend to annual any appointment which had received His Excellency's warrant, nor should the pay & allowance to Capt Hall have been—

without your sanction—indeed it is to be understood that no services whatever are to be undertaken in a disposition of the Naval Force made by the senior officer comg H. M. Vessels on Lake Erie, that has not the concurrence & approbation of the Genl officer comg. the Right Division.

[C 679-p 490.]

TO MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR—WITHOUT SIGNATURE

(*War—1812*)

M. Genl. Proctor (*Rough draft in Freer's writing* .)

Hd Qr St. Davids 26th Augt. 1813

Sir

I am directed by the Comr of the forces to inform you that Col. Talbot will leave this place to-morrow morning for the Head of the Lake to await there the arrival of the seamen mentioned to you in my letter of yesterday's date & to forward them on to Amherstburg by all possible dispatch—His 363 Excellency trusts that upon their arrival Capt Barclay will be able to make his appearance upon the Lake to meet the Enemy.1

1 Still urgent upon Barclay to engage.

12–24 pd Cannonades for arming of the Detroit are expected up in the fleet & will be landed at Burlington Bay. It is the desire of the Comr of the forces that Capt. Barclay will upon his arrival at Long Point send off an express to the officer Comg at Burlington Heights to apprise him of his arrival & the period he will be in readiness to receive his Canonades. upon being mounted you will be enabled to replace the guns which have been taken from the batteries for the new ship—

[C 679-p 500.]

MR. ELLIOT TO MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR

(*Indians*)

Amherstburg 27th Augt 11 O'clock at night

Sir ,

I am within this hour returned from Browns town & lose not a moment in forwarding the Speech of the deputation of the Sandusky Indians. I have detained them until I hear further from you, & in the present time have placed proper persons to observe them, and prevent any tampering with our Indians.2

2 Worried lest Harrison destroy the coalition.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient Humble Servant M. Elliott

Maj. Genl. Proctor &c. &c. Sandich

[C 257-p 143.]

GEN. MASON TO COL. BARCLAY

(*War—1812*)

Office Comr. Genl. of Prisoners. Washington , 27th Aug 1813

Sir ,

I have the honor to transmit you copies of the following letters, from Dr. Samuel McKeehan Surgeons Mate 2nd Regiment of the Ohio Militia to 364 Major General Dearborn of the

22nd May last—Two from the same person, one of the 6th and one of the 9th May to Lieut. Dudley, and one of the 12th May from George H. Rogers, of the United States Army, to Lieut. Dudley.—

You will perceive from the Statement of Dr. McKeehan, if it is correct, and from the respectability of his character there is much reason to believe it, that outrages have been committed on his person, not to be justified.

I do not however in requiring an explanation, rest this matter on the statement of the suffering person only. Lieut. Dudley of the United States Navy was at Montreal during his confinement, as you will remark by the letter's addressed to him—that Gentleman furnishes me himself with the originals of the two letters addressed to him by Doctr. McKeehan, and of that from George H. Rogers—and confirmed all that is stated by the Doctor to have happened after his, the Lieutenants, arrival at Montreal, and assured me that the Doctors treatment previous to that time was spoken of in Canada as a matter of notoriety to be such as he represented.—

I request sir that you will be pleased to enquire into the facts and the causes alleged for treatment so inhuman, to a man sent by the proper authority, and in the sacred protection of a Flag of Truce to administer kindly offices and medical aid to our wounded Prisoners. And also into the facts of the severe confinement and cruel usage alleged to have been used towards the 14 American Prisoners at Montreal named by Dr. McKeehan.—

I shall refrain sir from pointing out what may be thought the proper atonement to be made on the cases described, until your explanation is received.—

I have the honor to be Sir Your very obedient humble servant I. Mason .1

1 Gen. John Mason was U. S. commissary general of prisoners of war.

Colonol Thomas Barclay &c.

Library of Congress

[C 690-p 107.]

MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Sandwich , August 29th 1813

Sir

I did myself the honor to write to your Excellency on the 26th Inst: and in obedience to your commands have to acquaint you, that the Enemy's 365 Fleet quited the station it seemed to have taken, for the purpose of covering a Landing.1 If I may venture to conjecture his movements, it would be that he is gone to Long Point. I can assure your Excellency that every effort is making to have the Fleet as effective as possible, especially, in rendering the men expert at the guns: and that on the arrival of the officers and seamen offensive operations will commence, tho' I must say, because I know it to be the case, that the supply of both officers & seamen is very inadequate. Your Excellency is not aware that the state of the Provincial Marine here, was scasely better than that on Lake Ontario, which it has been found requisite, to lay aside. Interested Individuals have prevented this Truth from appearing, that the *navy* might not be on this Lake. I informed Major General Sheaffe that the change was equally requisite here. I look on Captain Barclay's arrival here, tho' late, as a fortunate circumstance. I should have been very averse to sending Soldiers on Board, but with officers of the Royal Navy, I feel it a duty incumbent on me, to state circumstances as they really are. These are not, in the Fleet more than four and twenty *Seamen* . I presume with extreme regard that Your Excellency had Doubt of a spirit of cordiality existing between the two services in this District; as well as, of my having conciliated the well disposed inhabitants. Of the cordiality between the services, afloat and on shore, I trust you are convinced, and I do assure Your Excellency that I no of no dissatisfaction among the well disposed Inhabitants, but, at their safety being endangered

by the want of sailors in the Fleet. Whoever has excited such Doubts must have been actuated by a sinister motive for they are not founded on any Fact. I hope Your Excellency will always enable me to meet the insidious. Every thing shall be done to induce the Indians required to go to the Centre Division, but I apprehend that the worst consequences would arise from weakening my Indian Force, ere the Fleet can seek the Enemy, however, no time shall be lost.2 If the Indian Goods in very considerable Quantities, do not arrive here, within a month, the most serious consequences may be apprehended. I have with much reluctance been under the necessity of purchasing Indian goods occasionally, but extremely inadequate to the demand. I may appear importunate, but I am not asking or urging more than a sense of duty dictates. I entreat Your Excellency to direct more sailors to be sent to this Lake. I have sent an officer to expedite those on the way, and as much as possible will be done on their arrival.

1 The reconnoisance of Perry of Aug. 25, 1813.

2 Is reluctant to be deprived of any of his Indians.

I have the honor &c &c &c Henry Proctor M. Genl. Comg

His Excellency Lt. Gen. Sir Geo: Prevost St Davids

[C 679-P 504.]

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COL. BARCLAY TO GEN. MASON

(*War—1812*)

Harbour , near New York 30th Aug 1813

Sir

In reply to your letter of the 27th Instant respecting Samuel McKeehan surgeons mate of the Ohio Militia, and fourteen American Prisoners of war at Montreal named by him.

I beg leave to assure you, I shall do all in my power to obtain an early and Satisfactory elucidation of the treatment stated to have been received by Mr McKeehan, and that he represents the other Prisoners experience at Montreal.

By to morrows Post, I shall transmit to you my dispatch to his Excellency General Sir George Prevost on the Subject, with copies of your letters and the documents enclosed therewith, which I request you will be pleased to forward to the near British Post in Canada by a flag of Truce.

I have little doubt a satisfactory explanation will be returned; whatever else may have been considered exceptional Traits in the characters of the Individuals who compose the Nation to which I belong; Inhumanity towards Prisoners hitherto has not been attributed to them.

I have the honor to be Sir Your obedient Servant Thos. Barclay

General Mason.

[C 90-p 103.]

FROM COL. BARCLAY—UNADDRESSED

(*War—1812*)

Harlem near New York 31st Aug 1813

Sir

I have the honor to enclose you the Copy of a letter from General Mason to me on the Subject of Surgeon's Mate McKeehan, and fourteen American Prisoners of war at

Montreal, with copies of the documents referred to in his letter, together with my answer on the Subject.—

Any explanation you may think proper to make, in answer to the Suggestions contained in Mr. McKeehans and Lieutt Dudley's statements, I shall not fail to communicate to this Government.

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There is reason to hope, General Mason, the American Commissary of prisoners, and myself will adjust the unfortunate dispute respecting the officer's and men of his Majestys 8th Regiment of Foot, and General Hull and twenty one other American Prisoners officers, Prisoners of war, who have been declared released and competent to serve; by exchanging them, and placing the whole to the respective debits and credits of the two Nations—

It was the only ready means of accomodating the Matter. I hope to have an answer in a day or two from the Commissary Genrl on my proposal to exchange all the British Prisoners in his possession, and to march them to St. Johns for delivery, where I have told him, I would request you to have an equivalent number of American Prisoners ready to deliver to the officers who may take on the British Prisoners

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir Your obedient an humble Servant Tho Barclay 1

1 The frequent use of cipher messages by Col. Barclay is evidence that he had his eyes open at New York and wished to protect his communications in case they came into hostile hands.

16. 1234 2459 3096 283 3060 808 I have reason to believe the Americans 127 3478 1716 15 1140 198 2854 will make a General attack soon 2652 650 3060 168 511-16-6-5— — — They are collecting 109 808 3060 650 1061 3042 3077 all — their — Forces Ten thousand

1795 2652 1537 2343 650 3060 Militia — It is probable — they 3478 1716 3079 198-21 195 3060 will make three attacks at the 2673 3093 same time

[C 690-p 109.]

MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR TO COLONEL BRENTON

(*War—1812*)

Sandwich August 31st 1813

Sir

In a letter from you of the 29th of June, I was required to direct money to be sent to Capt Roberts of the 10th R. V. Bon Comr at Mackinac, to enable 368 him to enlist Fencibles there. I say it with regret that the supplies of money which have been received from Mr Couche have been Constantly so totally inadequate to our *necessities* , a circumstance of which Mr Couche has been as constantly apprised, that the Commissariat here, have not been enabled to comply with my Directions according to your Letter. Capt. Roberts will be relieved shortly, an officer having been sent, agreeable to His Excellencys commands to Mackinac for that Purpose.

I have the honor to be Sir Your obedt humble servant, Henry Proctor Major General Comg

G. B. Brenton Esq1 &c &c

1 Col. E. B. Brenton.

[C. 679-p 521]

EXTRACT—WITHOUT ADDRESS OR SIGNATURE

(*Indians*)

It appears to be a matter of essential expediency, if not of indispensible necessity that Mr. Dixon should be sent on forthwith to Michilimackinac by Machindas; or if he finds it more convenient to go only to the Mouth of the French River in Lake Huron; and in either case, to wait for the Canoes with the Indian presents, which will in all probability reach Lake Huron in all the month of September.

The Canoes to be sent from Montreal, in order to avoid collision and partialities, should be so assorted and appropriated, as to apply two fifths of the articles sent, to the supplies of the Indians who have hitherto received their presents from Government at St. Josephs, and which should now be delivered to them at Michilimackinac, by the usual agents of the Government there,—and that three fifths,—should be sent to LaBaye2 this season if possible, and instructions given to the commanding officer at Michilimackinac to aid in so sending the same, by every means in his power.—That such three fifths should go to La Baye in charge of Mr. Dickson, and by him be distributed as presents to the Western Indians, whose distance does not permit of their coming to Michilimackinac with convenience, and more especially to those tribes from whom Warriors were collected by him, and proceeded to Detroit before or with him.—It should be also left to him

2 Green Bay, frequently called La Bay—the Bay.

if judged expedient and practicable, to send a portion of such three fifths, further on than LaBaye, to accommodate Indians, still more distant.1

1 Continually desirous of cultivating the good will of Dickson's western Indians. This extract, although unsigned, is evidently from a high source.

Whatsoever the temper of the Indians may have been at the time of their departure from Detroit, on their return to their own countries, or may now be, it seems most essential, whether as the means of preserving their attachment to the British Government if still unimpaired, or of regaining it, if lessened by disappointment of supplies, or any other cause, that very liberal supplies should be given to them, and that those for the Western

Nations should be distributed by Mr. Dickson, who as having been the ostensible organ of Government, in any promises made to them, must necessarily be the fittest agent for fulfilling those promises, whereby a much stronger impression should be made upon these Nations, than if the same articles were distributed by other hands.—And his presence with the supplies would furthermore tend to convince them, that there not receiving the same sooner, was from the impracticability of forwarding them earlier in the season, by reason of the late arrival thereof from England, and not from any neglegence or inattention in His Majesty's Servants in this Country.

It is further to be observed that what is above mentioned, has no reference to any arrangement about Presents to the Indians usually supplied from Detroit and Niagara, who doubtless will be attended to by Government, in devising a Conveyance for the same, by the River St. Lawrence, and Lake Ontario, and thence from the Head of that Lake, if the usual communication by Niagara should remain obstructed, when those presents shall arrive at Burlington Bay.

Montreal 31st August 1813

[C 257-p 144.]

BRIG. GEN. WILKINSON TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Head Quarters Fort George 2nd Septr 1813

Sir

By desire of the Secretary of State of the United States, I have the honor to transmit you the inclosed copy of a letter together with the documents which accompany it; and it is with

pleasure I add that I am informed by 47 370 the Secretary of War, that an adjustment has taken place, in relation to the exchange of prisoners between our respective Nations.

I salute your excellency with great respect, and have the honor to be

Your most obedient humble Servant J. A. Wilkinson

His Excellency, Sir George Prevost.

[C 690-p 162.]

MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR TO SECRETARY FREER

(*War—1812*)

Sandwich September 3d 1813

Sir

I am under the painful necessity of acquainting you for the Information of the Commander of the Forces that the greatest Injuries Arise to the Service from the Constant Inadequateness of the supplies of Money to the Demand; and from the great Delay in transmitting it to the Commissariat in this District, I am at a loss to conceive why we are kept so destitute of money—as Mr. Couche is no stranger to our Necessities.1 The troops have been for several months without Pay; a circumstance which is productive of Evil —The Civil Artificers have ceased to work, from the want of Payment, which is much in arrear:

1 Proctor is manifestly pinched for lack of money, which affects both the regular force and the Indians.

The want of Money encreases the Price of Provisions as well as the difficulty of procuring them. We are under the necessity of taking Articles of Provisions of Individuals on Receipt,

a mortifying Circumstance, where our Credit from bad payment is far from being good. The Indian Department suffer the greatest Inconvenience from the mode in which they are paid, if they can be said to receive Pay at all. I made a very full Representation on that Head to Major General Sir R. H. Sheaffe, which I understood was submitted to the consideration of His Excellency, I would propose that the Superintendant of Issues to the Indians, should be Paymaster to the Department in the District, receiving the Pay in Toto from the Commissary two shillings & Sixpense, in addition would be adequate to the Extra Duty proposed I must observe that the greatest Benefit have already accrued from 371 situation of Superintendant of Issues to the Indians. I have also addressed Major General de Rottenburg on these Subjects.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your Obedient humble servant Henry Proctor Major General Comg

Noah Freer Esqr Military Secretary

[C 680-p 7]

MAJ. GEN. DE ROTTENBURG TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Headquarters of the Centre Division of the Army 4 Mile Creek 5th September 1813

Sir

Depy Commr Genl Couche1 has reported to the Commissary General that Flour for Genl Proctors Army is on its way to the Thames, and droves of Cattle have also been forwarded for their supply—Directions have been given to Major Maule to immediately forward the supplies that have been loaded at Burlington Bay for that Army

1 Couche is energetically providing supplies.

I have the honor to be most respectfully Your Excellency's Most obedt & humble Servant Frances de Rottenburg M General

His Excellency the Governor in Chief &. &. &.

[C 680-p 22.]

MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR TO SECRETARY FREER

(*War—1812*)

Sandwich September 6th 1813

Sir

The probable consequences of any further Delay in sending an adequate supply of Indian Stores to this District are of so serious a nature, that I 372 cannot refrain from urging the necessity of their being pushed forward by every possible means; and that if unfortunately they should not have arrived in the Country, they may be forwarded if possible, immediately from the North West Company for the present at least.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces is well aware that the scanty supplies, and purchases were barely adequate to the necessities of the moment. The long expected supplies Cannot any longer be delayed, without the most frightful consequences. The Indian & his family suffering from cold will no longer be amused with promises, His wants he will naturally attribute to our neglect at least, and Defection is the least of evils we may expect from him. There have not been among the Indians, with whom we are concerned, any Traders, consequently their necessities can be supplied by us only, or the Enemy who are not inattentive to any circumstances respecting the Indians, that may be turned to their advantage. I do not hesitate to say, that if we do not receive a timely, and adequate supply of Indian goods and Ammunition we shall be inevitably subjected to Ills of the greatest

Magnitude, Mr Robert Dickson, to whose zeal, and ability, which from circumstances have not had full scope, I must offer full Testimony will have the honor, more fully to speak to the Purport of this Letter; as well as another subject on which we are fully agreed, the Indian Department.

I have the honor to be sir Your most obedt humble Servt, Henry Proctor Major General Comg

Noah Freer Esq Military Secretary

[C 680-p 26.]

TO MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR—UNADDRESSED

(*War—1812*)

M. Genl. Proctor

Kingston 6th Sept—1813

Sir ,

I received yesterday your letter of the 29th Ultimo, acquainting me with the departure of the American Fleet from the station it had taken off Amherstburg & at the same time stating it as your opinion that that movement was the result of a disposition to attack Long Point.

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On the 28th Lt. Col. Hamilton with the Flank Companies of the 100th Regt. & one Six Pounder marched from Burlington heights upon that place, where I hope he will succeed in time to organize the Militia, when added to his force will be sufficient to restrain the Enemy from committing any depredations.

I have much satisfaction in informing you Capt. Dewey of H. M. Troop Ship Dover is hourly expected at Kingston with 5 officers, 40 seamen & 8 marines. You may rely on my endeavour to obtain from Commodore Sir James Yeo a large proportion of them for Lake Erie & to have them forwarded to you without delay.

I have upon all occasions expressed myself as confident in the successful termination of your exertions for the preservation of the territory entrusted to you to defend & every occurrence in which you have been concerned has confirmed the Justice of the sentiment.

You may therefore readily conceive the satisfaction with which I received your assurance of the good understanding & perfect cordialty which existed between yourself & Capt. Barclay, as well as your having conciliated the well disposed inhabitants about you—If a doubt existed in my mind on those points, it was created by an anonymous correspondent in your neighborhood & you have removed it entirely—

You & I have too much occupation Just now to ferret out the villain but hereafter the Papers shall be sent to you to enable you to detect him, at present it is wisdom not to swerve from the arduous course before us but to make use of every honorable means to retain the advantages we have gained.

The sudden appearance of Genl. Armstrong & Genl. Wilkinson at Sackett Harbour, where the previous concentration of a large force had taken place, hurried me back here, where your future communications must be addressed—The 2nd Br. of the 41st Regt. is expected in the course of this week at Kingston, from whence it will immediately proceed in two divisions to York on its route upwards.1

1 No signature but conjectured to be from Sir George Prevost's headquarters.

[C 680-p 30.]

MAJ. GEN. DE ROTTENBURG TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Head Quarters Of The Centre Division 4 Mile Creek 8th September 1813

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Letter of the 3d Inst., Authorising me to use my own discretion in removing the Troops under my command to a more healthy situation whenever I may deem it necessary. A retrograde movement I shall only resort to in case of 374 the most absolute necessity, for if I fall back on Burlington Heights I loose all the Resources of the Fertile Country now in my rear, and do not attain a more healthy Position, for Burlington is at this moment still more unhealthy that this— should the promised Camp Equipage arrive shortly, I have some thoughts of concentrating the whole of my Force, my right at Chippawa, my left on the Heights of Queenston, and my centre with the Head Quarters at Lundy's Lane—this Position is good, and much more healthy than the present one; I delayed sending off the express yesterday in hopes of being enabled to give Your Excellency some favourable intelligence of our Naval operations on the Lake. The Enemy's Fleet came out yesterday morning at 8 o'clock seemingly determined to give battle. Sir James manoevered to gain the weather gage, so did the Enemy, and this continued the whole day, until they got out of sight about 6 o'clock P. M. in the direction of the Genesee—no firing was heard during the night, and this forenoon at 11 o'clock both Fleets were seen continuing the same manuoevers. The Adjutant General has transmitted me the return of heavy Guns, Howitzers, and morters mentioned in Your Excellency's Letter, and which I am anxious to receive— Dr Macauly's presence here may be very useful, as a great many of our medical men are laid up and the sickness does not in the least abate.—

Col. Pearson's1 intelligence was immediately transmitted to M. Gen Proctor with directions that in case Gen. Harrison should attempt the movement therein mentioned, he should

cooperate with the squadron under Commodr Barclay's command, and fall on the American armament at the first favorable opportunity.

1 Lieut. Col. Thomas Pearson, inspecting field officer; has been colonel since Feb. 8, 1813.

Some late Deserters from Fort George contradict the statements of those who came in a few days, ago, and say, that Chauncey is still in the command of the Fleet, and that General Wilkinson is arrived at Fort George.

I transmit enclosed the copy of a letter received from General Boyd, he does not reply to the point in question, relative to the ignominious treatment inflicted upon Capt Lorimier as I requested in my letter of the 26th August. I now request Your Excellency's orders relative to the Eleven American Prisoners of war kept here for the purpose of exchanging them for Captured Indians.

I have the honor to be most respectfully Your Excellency's Most obedt & humble servant Francis De Rottenburg M. General

His Excellency The Commander of the Forces

[C 680-p 34.]

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MAJ. GEN. DE ROTTENBURG TO COLONEL BAYNES

(*War—1812*)

Head Quarters Of The Centre Division 4 Mile Creek 10th September 1813

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th Instant and transmit enclosed the original Letter of Brigr Gen: Boyd respecting the confinement and treatment experienced by Capt Lorimier, I have received no further explanation on the subject except the American Generals letter of the 4th Inst a copy of which I transmitted to his Excellency on the 8th.

I am happy to hear that the seamen of the Dover are on their way and as soon as they arrive at the Head of the Lake they will be forwarded with all expedition.

Major Genl Proctor writes me word on the 6th Inst: that he cannot give his sanction to our Fleet seeking that of the Enemy if seamen are not sent to him immediately he further adds that if they are not here must starve for want of provisions, He has sent Capt. Chambers here for the purpose of hurrying on the seamen—In order to feed that army from hand to mouth until we get the superiority on the Lake I have ordered Captain Chambers to Ancaster with a Detachment of a Sergeant and 12 Dragoons, provided with a Press Warrant for the purpose of collecting all the Waggons in Dundas street Oxford1 and the back settlements in order to convey Flour by Land to the Point where the Thames becomes navigable.

1 See appendix.

Every preparation is making at Burlington for the Erection of Barracks but I have it not in my power to send more troops to Burlington having lost so many men by Desertion and sickness but I have called out 150 Militia men to assist in the works and have authorized the officer commanding at York to call out as many as he may want there and have further issued a Militia General order that if those men unlawfully paroled do not obey the call I shall send them out of the country to the Enemy in conformity to His Excellencys Proclamation, I trust this will have the desired effect.

This is now the fifth day that the Fleets have been in sight of each other manoeuvering to gain the wind without coming to any result Yesterday the American Fleet was out of sight and Sir James about 9 oclock A. M. was off the mouth of the river where he captured under the fire of their Batteries a small schooner and in a few hours after he sent her back to Fort George—What all this means I am at a loss to say—The Fleets are now nearly opposite this Creek but there is no wind.

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A deserter from Fort George states that Gen: Wilkinson gave an order last Sunday that the troops should be held in readiness to march at a moment's warning—It was also said that Genl Harrison was doing well and might be expected here by and bye, this corroborates tha Intelligence from Prescot.

Sickness and desertion continue and I am sorry to say the Kings have begun to follow the bad example set them by the other Corps

I have the Honor to be Sir Your most obedient servant Francis de Rottenburg M. General

The Adjutant General to the Forces &c &c &c

[C 680-p 58.]

FROM MAJ. GEN. SHEAFFE—UNADDRESSED

(*War—1812*)

Montreal 11th September 1813

Sir

I have the honor of enclosing information brought by Captain Sinclair who has been taking a tour on the other side of the Richelieu.—This morning I learn that Capt. Pring with his

flotilla was at Anchor yesterday on the line, and that he had received intelligence that the Enemy are Anchored in a bay two miles on this side of Cumberland head, with Five Sloops two of which have the Guns of the Scows lately put on board and are called transports, two Gun Boats and the steam boats that troops were actually embarked on board them on Sunday last but were prevented by contrary winds from sailing till Tuesday morning, what number of Troops or where destined no satisfactory information could be obtained, A Flag of Truce had got into Burlington Bay and close to the Shore before she was perceived and was detained, which is of course Mr. Hicks—"

Mr. Hick's was sent, I suppose, with some letters forwarded from American officers near Quebec.—I have ordered two Compys. from St. John's1 to Isle Aux Noix—and as many Indians as can be mustered are assembling on the other side to act with Lt. Colonel De Salisbury. A General Court Martial is ordered to assemble at Chambly on Monday for the trial of the Deserters.

1 St. Johns on the River Richelieu, the outlet of Lake Champlain, 25 miles southeast from Montreal; 25 miles north of the New York state line.

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The Canoes for Mackinac go off to day, one excepted, which is detained till some Articles of silver and some glass are brought from a vessel below: it is besides desirable to ascertain before its departure whether Mr. Dickson or some other as his substitute is to be sent up to Makinac as suggested by Mr. McGillivray—the utility of Mr. Dickson's1 going is very strongly urged, but if he Cannot be sent Captain McKay, now above, is recommended in his stead.— if neither of them can be employed on this service, it will then be necessary to despatch—LaMothe1 of the Indian department from hence in the detained Canoe, which being comparatively light, will be able to overtake the others, setting out after the arrival of Your Excellency's pleasure thereon. —LaMothe is the only efficient officer here to act with the Indians and cannot well be spared.—

1 See appendix.

I transmit a note I have received from Mr. De Calorence, but the letter he refers to may not reach Your Excellency so soon.

I have the honor to be with great respect Your Excellency's most Obedt humble servant R. H. Sheaffe

[C 680-p 53.]

MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR TO MAJ. GEN. DE ROTTENBURG

(*War—1812—Disaster on Lake Erie*)

Sandwich September 12th 1813

Sir

With the deepest regret I acquaint you that the Squadron of His Majesty's vessels, Detroit, Queen Charlotte, Lady Prevost, Hunter, Chippewa, Erie,1 two ships, skooner Brig, small schooner, sloop, six sail under the Command of Captain Barclay sailed at 3 o'clock P M on the 9th Instant to seek that of the Enemy, nine sail, two Brigs Carrying 20, 32 Pound Canonades each and two long 12 Pounders, and that on the 10th Inst. the two Fleets were seen engaged between the Islands about 25 Miles from the Settlement below Amherstburg. The action lasted from twelve to nearly half past three, and I understand from Lt Col: Warburton who saw the Action from an Elevated situation fifteen Miles below Amherstburg, that the firing was incessant, and the vessels appeared to be very near each other. The spectators were fully impressed with the Idia that our Fleet were the Victors, but Circumstances have since placed it beyond a doubt 48 378 that the whole of our Fleet have been taken or destroyed. The wind was fair for Amherstburg the whole of the 10th and 11th Inst: No accounts from or of Captain Barclay, and on the latter day the Vessels

eleven evidently under one Flag worked down the Lake. The Commissariat might have preserved this District; or a Due Attention to the Naval Establishment on this Lake. I have no neglects to upbraid myself with, that could have the slighest effect on the safety of this Country, tho, one is implied in Your Letter “not employing the Queen Charlotte and my Craft diligently in Conveying Provisions from Long Point, at the opening of the Navigation.” I beg leave to observe, in Answer, that those from whom you received that Information, might have mentioned, that the unfortunate ship Queen Charlotte could not be used at the Period alluded to, for want of hands, who were in the craft employed on the expedition to the Miami, which has received the approbation of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces.1 I take the liberty of suggesting the Expediency of occupying immediately an Eligible Piece of Ground at Turky Point, by Blockhouses connected by Picketting; that may be defended by from three to five hundred men. I do not see the least chance of occupying to advantage my present extensive Position, which can be so easily turned by means of the entire Command of the waters here, which the Enemy now has. A circumstance that would render my Indian Force very inefficient. It is my opinion that I should retire on the Thames, without Delay preparatory to any other movement that may be found requisite, or determined on. I have written to Colonel Talbot to send to the Thames whatever Articles of Food there may be in his reach, also to have the read, as far as possible, repaired, thro' the wilderness. I feel myself much at a Loss with respect to the Indians; The Loss of the Fleet is a most Calamitous Circumstance. Michilimackinac will require immediate attention, It is to be apprehended that the Enemy may make an Attempt to pass up some of their Vessels to possess themselves of that place, and some vessels we must send to the Upper Lake, Requesting to hear from you by Return of the Express

1 Proctor had urged for months the necessity for seamen, shipwrights, guns and reinforcements for the fleet. He cannot be censured for the disaster, and neither can Barclay be blamed, both did their utmost.

I have the Honor to be Sir Your obedt humble Servt Henry Proctor Major General Comg

Major General Rottenburg &c &c St Davids

[C 680-p 71]

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MAJ. GEN. DE ROTTENBURG TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

4 Mile Creek 17 September 1813

My Dear Sir George

I am without intelligence from Lake Erie, Dixon arrived here 3 days ago, but unaccompanied by Indians. M. Genl. Proctor would not allow the Indians to proceed until the last badge of sailors had arrived. Mr. Dixon has proceeded to wait upon you at Kingston

I have the honor to be Your most faithful and obedient humble Servant Francis De Rottenburg

Lt. Genl. Sir George Prevost Bart. &c. &c.

[C 680-p 70.]

MAJ. GEN. DE ROTTENBURG TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Headquarters of the Centre Division 1 4 Mile Creek 17th Sept—1813—

1 See appendix.

Sir ,

With feelings of sorrow & affliction I transmit to Your Excellency a Dispatch from Genl. Proctor which I received last night and a copy of the answer I sent him in consequence. This terrible disaster if not counterbalanced by a complete victory on this Lake must eventually change all my dispositions and force me back to the Position of Burlington Heights.—I shall now stop the Sailors at Burlington until I hear from Sir James. Every exertion shall be used to provide General Proctor with provisions by Land.

I have the honor to be most respectfully Your Excellency's most obedient and most humble Servant Francis de Rottenburg M. General.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces.

By Mistake Your Excellency's letter which was forwarded from this yesterday was dated the 17th instead of the 16th.

[C 608-p 78.]

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COL. HARVEY TO MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR

(*War—1812*)

Headquarters of the Centre Division 17th September 1813

Sir

Major G. De Rottenburg received your letter of the 12th Inst. yesterday evening—He directs me to ask in the first place whether the sailing of Captain Barclay's squadron to meet the Enemy at a time when it was so incompetently manned, was the consequence of a *positive* order to that purport from Commodore Sir Jas. Yeo, or the Commander of

the Forces, or whether that measure was adopted by you, and in that case that you will be pleased to state the circumstances or motives by which you was led to the adoption of so hazardous a measure with the knowledge which you possessed of the intention to urge forward seamen, with all possible expedition and the assurance which you had received, that they were actually on their way—Secondly, I have Major General De Rottenburg's direction to say, that he does not clearly see the necessity or expediency of your immediately retiring1 from present position— There certainly may be reasons which you have not stated, or with which the Major General is consequently unacquainted, which may point more urgently to the necessity of such a movement, than he is at present aware of—But the view M Genl. de Rottenburg is inclined to take of your situation as connected with the Loss of the squadron, is that, that event cannot affect you so immediately as to make any precipitate retrograde movement necessary—after an action of three hours and a half the enemy's vessels must have received so much damage as not to be in a situation to undertake any thing further for some time—This interval you will employ in looking well at your situation, in communication with Tecumseth, and the Indians, in ascertaining the impression which this disaster has produced on them, and in concerting with them the means best calculated, to lessen the consequences of that disaster, concentrating or making such a disposition of your remaining Force, as may prove to them the sincerity of the British Government, in its intention not to abandon them, so long as they are true to their own interests—An officer of engineers proceeds immediately to Long Point to construct the Block Houses you recommended; and such other defensive works as may appear to him to be required—Colonel (John) Murray who has lately (joined) this Division of the army, will also proceed to assume the command at Long Point. He will be instructed to call out the Militia—

1 The inference is that Proctor had decided to hasten away from Amherstburg.

With reference to the concluding paragraph of your letter, I am directed 381 to enquire what means we possess in vessels &c. by which to send assistance to Michilimackinac. Does the Enemy possess, any vessels at present on Lake Huron, and would it be

practicable to prevent their passing the Narrows of the Sinclair, and thus to preserve the ascendancy on that Lake (Huron) the Enemy possessing that of Lake Erie? Would the seamen now hourly expected be of any service, or may their progress be stopped? Do you wish the 10, 24 pdrs Cannonades intended for the Detroit to be sent on and to what place? Your answers to these Queries and a full communication of everything relating to your situation, intentions, and wants, it is requested may be transmitted by most expeditious means at your disposal.

(Signed) J. Harvey D. A. G.

Major Genl Proctor &c &c &c

[C 680—p 75.]

MAJ. GEN. DE ROTTENBURG TO SECRETARY FREER

(*War—1812*)

Headquarters of the Centre Division 4 Mile Creek 19th September 1813

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th Instant with an enclosure for Sir James L. Yeo which will be delivered to him when I have the satisfaction of seeing him again. There is no longer any necessity to send a copy of this letter to Major Genl Proctor as you will have heard ere this that our fleet on Lake Erie is either captured or destroyed

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedt servant Francis de Rottenburg M. General

The Military Secretary &. &. &.

Library of Congress

[C 680-p 90.]

COLONEL BAYNES TO MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR

(*War—1812*)

Hd Qrs Kingston 20 Sept 1813

Sir

In the letter which I had the honor of addressing to you on the 16th Inst. I informed you that I had by order of the commander of the Forces on that day announced to Major General De Rottenburg that considerations of a public nature, would induce His Exclly to remove his Hd Qrs to Montreal about the End of this month.—

I was at the same time instructed to acquaint the Major General Commanding that His Excellency confided in his judgments and directions to determine how far it would be prudent to continue to contend against the increasing evils and difficulties with which the Centre and Right Divisions have to struggle.—This important decision must in a great measure depend on the issue of impending events of the Campaign which cannot be much longer procrastinated.

It is very much to be regretted that a decisive action between the two squadrons on Lake Ontario has been so long delayed, as it has unavoidably entailed upon the Army a corresponding state of inaction, and in a great degree involved it in the very critical state in which it is now placed, as on the issue of that all important event, the active operations of the Campaign have been necessarily in a great measure suspended for offensive military operations presented little prospect of being prosecuted with success, without the Aid of Co-operation, and more particularly the protection to be derived from a superior Marine Force.—At the same time it would have been highly impolitic to have anticipated the failure

of that support, and by adopting measures of precaution, to have relinquished one foot of the ground upon which we so proudly stand—Such a measure would have lost us all our wavering friends and would have proved destructive of our Indian Alliance.

The superior resources of the Enemy have indeed enabled him to render our situation critical and difficult but it still does not yet amount to that point as to render a retrograde movement indispensible, and until that is the case, it should be avoided by every possible exertion & device.—Shd. however such a measure became unfortunately unavoidable, it is His Excellency's express commands that it be not resorted to until its necessity and the mode of carrying it into effect has been previously well weighed and considered, and all necessary arrangements made that under every circumstance it be conducted with order and regularity.—His Excellency trusts 383 that the advanced divisions of the Army are not encumbered with heavy or superfluous baggage, no consideration of that nature is to be suffered to impede the march of the Troops for one moment, the removal of all sick and convalescents must be previously provided for.—Every position which the Country affords, is to be occupied & defended so that the Enemy be a pay dearly for every step he advances. All retrograde movements are to be resorted to with reluctance, and they are to be as limited as the circumstances wh. cause them will permit, and they are never to be hurried or accelerated, Unless warranted by circumstances of peculiar urgency.

Should Your situation become desperate you are recommended to adopt a line of conduct suited to the exegency of the Case, and as every thing must be sacrificed by a retrograde movement, you will exhaust every resource and means within your power, before you resort to that measure.—This policy particularly applies to the Marine Force, and you will therefore impress upon Captain Barclay (in whose zeal, talents, and determined fortitude the Commdr of the Forces has the most firm reliance), that the squadron under his command being inevitably involved in the-common fate of the Military positions on Lake Erie, is to be devoted to their preservation, and if necessary sacrificed to the last atom, sooner than a vestage be left entire to swell the pride of an arrogant foe,1 and you will on your part be careful that nothing that can be in any way useful to the Enemy be

suffered to fall into his hands. His Excellency looks with Confidence to your exertions, that every injury and annoyance that it is possible for the combined discipline and gallantry of the Troops under your Command to perform will be called forth to cripple and repulse the Enemy. His Excellency is particularly solisitus that the relative dependence and Mutual support that exists between the Centre and Right Divisions may never be lost sight of—he recommends that every attention & exertion she be made to preserve the communication upon both by Land & water, and that a perfect understanding prevail of the relative state, plans, & occurrences of each Division in as far as they may influence the operation of either. with this view His Excellency has been pleased to sanction Major General De Rottenburg; opening every public dispatch to his address from you, under circumstances of Emergency where you may not be able to report separately to the Major General in order that your wants may meet with prompt relief when circumstances admit of his affording it to you.

1 The date of this communication is ten days after the battle of Lake Erie. The remarks about Barclay's fleet indicate that the event of Sept. 10th was unknown to Col. Baynes. De Rottenburg heard of it Sept. 20, 1813.

Commodore Sir James Yeo returned here on Thursday last, his third cruize I regret to say has not been marked with any advantage whatever on our part, a great deal of manoeuvring attended with distant cannonading in 384 which the Enemy being favoured with the wind has partially the advantage, four of our men were Killed and I believe about the same number wounded. The Commodore sails again this evening with the squadron, and will afford Convoy to all the small vessels, with stores:—if it is deemed eligible a proposed attack will be made on the Enemy's position at Fort George previous to Ma: Genl De Rottenburg quitting that now occupied by his division which from the local defects it is exposed to, and the very harrassing duties entailed upon the troops has introduced among them Desease & desertion to a very great degree. I enclose a letter which I have received

from Major McPherson commg the 10th Vetn Battn and you are requested to make the best arrangements and afford such relief as is in your power.

I have &c (Sgd) E. Bayne

Genl. Proctor

[C 680-p 105.]

TO MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR—WITHOUT SIGNATURE

(*War—1812*)

23 Sept Kingston

M. Genl. Proctor

I received last night1 your letter of the 13th Inst which conveys to me your strong apprehensions that the whole of His Majesty's vessels on Lake Erie were taken or destroyed in a general action with the Enemy's Squadron among the Islands on the 10th by which misfortune you have been deprived of the whole of your heavy ordnance & of one third of your effective force, our Fleet having had on board a very large portion of soldiers in consequence of the inadequacy of the number of seamen afforded to it by Comdo Sir James Yeo.

1 This date makes it plain that the report of the battle of Lake Erie was not received at headquarters, Kingston, until Sept. 22, 1813. On that date Prevost wrote to Earl Bathurst a meager report of the defeat.

Altho: you do not express it in the Despatch before me, still I conclude from your previous communications, that you were induced to encourage the departure of our squadron from Amherstburg in consequence of the extreme distress you labored under for provisions

for your troops & the Indian Warriors, the resources of the Country about you being exhausted, otherwise it would have been much more prudent to have waited the arrival of the remainder of the Dover's seamen before an attempt was made to force your intercourse with the Depots established for the Right Division of the Army at Long Point.

The precautionary measures you are taking appear to me proper, The concentration of your force has become indispensible and your nearer connection 385 with the Centre Division may be requisite. You will find in a letter which I directed the Adgt Genl to you, my sentiments at large upon the movements of the Right Division in the event of your being obliged to relinquish the territory you have long ably defended & upon being compelled to resort to a retrograde movement.—I must therefore refer you to it & to such instructions as you may receive from M. Genl de R—with whom I this day leave the command of the Troops in Upper Canada whilst I hasten to the Lower Province, which has been attacked by the Enemy, but not in a manner to excite serious apprehensions for the result.

Your wishes respecting Turkey Point have been anticipated, You will meet the distress created by the loss of our Fleet with fortitude & I have a perfect reliance on your conducting such ulterior operations resulting from it with promptitude & regularity.

[C 680-p 112.]

MR. MONROE TO MAJ. GEN. WILKINSON1

1 There were complications and troubles over the exchange of prisoners. This strong letter of Secretary Monroe was instrumental in speedily clearing up the situation and placing exchanges on a regular basis.

(*War—1812*)

Department of State Septr 14 1813

Sir ,

I have been much surprised by the contents of a letter lately transmitted to me by Gen Boyd, from Sir George Prevost, commander in chief of the British Forces in Canada, addressed to General Dearborn, relative to the exchange of Genl Hull and certain other officers of the United States, for the Troops taken by the Essex Frigate, from the British Transport the Samuel and Sarah.

I find that the British Commander still complains of that exchange, having inferred that he had shewn its impropriety, in a former letter, of the 21st of April, and that he menaced, should it be persisted in by this Government, to adopt a measure, of a very severe, as well as unjust Character, towards the United States, on the principle of retaliation.

Since General Prevost takes this view of the subject, I regret that I did not make the comments, invited by his letter, of the 21st of April, at an earlier day, for his satisfaction.

He, has, however, altogether misconceived the cause of my silence perceiving, as I did, that he had been misinformed as to the facts on which his objection was founded, I felt a repugnance, from motives of delicacy, to pursue a discussion which I was persuaded could not be agreeable to him, and for which there seemed to be no longer any necessity on my part. 49 386 Shortly after the receipt of Sir George Prevosts letter, the business of exchange passed into other hands.

On the arrival of Colonol Barclay, the British Commissary General of Prisoners, the President appointed Gen. Mason, to a similar station on the part of the United States. this arrangement placed that interest in a regular train, and I indulged the hope that all questions relating to prisoners would be settled promptly and amicably as they occurred, comprizing of course the difference relating to this exchange.

The facts in this case are few and simple. The British Commander put into service the troops taken by the Essex, from the Samuel and Sarah, without their having been exchanged by any authority from the United States.

I know of but one way by which an exchange of prisoners, can be made regularly, between two governments, which is, by a cartel agreed on by both, and by agents appointed by each, who in every act of exchange shall respectively state the prisoners surrendered for those which are received.

At the time the exchange is said to have been made by the British Commanders, no cartel had been agreed on, no agent of the United States had arrived at Halifax, or other person been authorized by the President, to make an exchange of prisoners. None could therefore be made, except, by the British Commanders themselves.

That no regular exchange was ever made, by consent of the two governments, was shewn in my former letters on this subject, and by the documents which accompanied them.

In further proof of the fact, if further proof was necessary, I now transmit to you, a copy of a communication between Mr Mitchell and Mr. Miller,1 American and British Commissaries at Halifax, and of a letter from the former to his Department, which place the question beyond all doubt.

1 Respectively the British (Mitchell) and the American (Miller) exchange agents.

I might, indeed, urge that, in a case where one government founds a claim on any particular act of another government, especially of such high authority as that of compact, there should be no question about the validity of the act itself. Complete evidence should be produced of it, in the most authoritive form. Such evidence may always be produced where the compact is regularly entered into, or is indeed entered into at all.

The reasoning of Sir George Prevost is satisfactory to them, that in putting these troops into service, he committed no intentional injury against the United States; that he had sufficient cause to believe that they were exchanged; but it does not prove that such exchange had actually been made. Captn Crane had no power to make an exchange of prisoners; nor had Gen. Dearborn; or even to communicate on the subject, further than as 387 related to the exchange of Gen. Hull, and the other officers that were comprised in the same act of his government. All the other circumstances relied on by Gen Prevost are of the same character they might tend to enspire him with confidence in the communication which he had received from Halifax, but they did not prove the fact of a regular exchange having been made by the two governments.

It appears therefore that this government in declaring the exchange of Gen. Hull, and the other officers included with him, for officers and men taken from the Samuel and Sarah, rests on a ground which cannot be shaken.

The British Naval commander at Halifax having put into service the crew of the Gueriere, and a part of the crew of the Avenger. and Sir George Prevost having put in to service the troops taken in the Samuel and Sarah without their having been exchanged by this government, or by any person duly authorized by it, it was inferred that the exchange, afterwards made, of those officers for those troops, could not fail to be approved by the British commanders. It would indeed, be strange, if they should claim to themselves a right to perform any act, which they would not allow to be reciprocal.

That the fortune of war should have procured to Great Britain more prisoners, by land, than the United States, does not affect, in the slighest degree, the merits of the question.

At the same time when this exchange was declared by this government, the fortune of war was uncertain and doubtful; it was equally probable that the balance would have been in favor of the United States. It is still probable that it may become so in the progress of the war.

I have made these remarks to show that no change of sentiment has been produced in this government by Gen Prevosts letter, or by any other circumstance, relative to the exchange made by it, of Gen. Hull and certain other officers, for the troops taken in the Samuel and Sarah; that the measure was, on the contrary, and justified and invited by the British example; that it was adopted in a spirit of accommodation, and intended to sanction, as well as to take advantage of, the employment of the British troops, which had already been improperly put into service. It was anticipated that a cartel would soon be established between the two governments, and that exchanges would afterwards be made with regularity, according to principle and without injury to either party.

This subject now engages, as I understand, the attention of the Commissaries of the two governments, between whom I apprehend no difficulty can arise respecting it. It would afford cause of serious neglect if the British 388 Commander, or either of them, who gave the example, so far as any error has been committed, should, by any act of injustice or violence, produce a different result. I have the honor to be, with great consideration, your very obt. sert.

(Signed) Jas. Monroe .

His Excellency Major General James Wilkinson. .&c.

[C 690-p 153.]

EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS

(*War—1812*)

Account of the exchange of sundry Officers of the Army and Militia of the United States made Prisoners of war at Detroit Queenston & Elsewhere vizt:—1

1 See appendix.

No Names Rank. Equivalents Total 208 William Hull Brigr Genl 20 209 Duncan McArthur Colonel 15 210 James Findly “ 15 211 Lewis Cass “ 15 212 James Miller Lt. Colonel. 10 213 John R. Fenwick “ 10 214 Winfield Scott “ 10 215 John Christie “ 10 216 James Taylor Major 8 217 Nathan Heald Captain 6 218 John Whistler “ 6 219 Henry B. Brevoort “ 6 220 Josiah Snelling “ 6 221 Robert Lucas “ 6 222 Abraham F. Hull “ 6 223 Peter Ogilvie “ 6 224 William King “ 6 225 Joel Cook “ 6 227 Thomas S. Jesup 1st Lieut 4 228 James Dalliba 2nd “ 4 229 Daniel Hugiman 2nd “ 4 1852

2 This follows copy exactly; but the total is 179 instead of 185 as it should be. Number 226 is missing and the equivalent of 6 would make the required total. It is impossible with the records we have to decide whose name was omitted. The following page says Gen. Hull and 21 other officers were exchanged. The list shows only 21 in all.

[C 690-p 141.]

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This is to Certify , that the officers named in the within list, American prisoners of War, have been regularly exchanged, for an equivalent number of British Prisoners of War, and it is understood between the parties to this Instrument, that whereas some or all of the within named Prisoners of War, have been heretofore put into Service by the officers of their Government that this exchange is intended so to have reference back as that no one of the said prisoners of war shall be held in case of recapture previous to this date, to any responsibility for such service; and on the other hand that in case of such recapture, each Prisoner of the within named so recaptured shall be held liable to a second exchange.

Exchanged and signed this Seventeenth day of September in the year of our Lord 1813.

(Signed J. Mason Thomas Barclay

[C 690-p 142.]

COL. BARCLAY TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Harlem, New York 24th September 1813

Sir ,

I have the honor to inform you that the American Commissary General of Prisoners and myself have exchanged the officers and men of the Royals, British Prisoners of war, and Brigadier General Hull and twenty-one other officers American Prisoners of war, expressed in the copies of the exchange lists enclosed.—

They were generally exchanged and respectively placed to the credit and debit of each nation in account. I also enclose the certificates of discharge from parole for the officers of the Royals.—As no lists of the names of the officers and men of the Royals were sent me by Coll Baynes I have been under the necessity of taking the American List.

You will therefore be pleased to acquaint, if there is any mistake, and point it out, that it may be rectified.—

The American Commissary has promised me the moment he gets the returns of the British land Forces, now Prisoners in these States, to make an exchange. But as you have sent the American Prisoners to Halifax, I must fear he will only consent, on delivering the British Prisoners at the 390 place the Americans are received, and not deliver them on the Canada Line.

I have the honor to be Sir Your obedient humble servant Tho. Barclay

His Excellency Sir Geo. Prevost Bart

[C 690-p 133.]

FROM COL. BARCLAY—UNADDRESSED

(*War—1812*)

Harlem, New York 25th Sept 1813.

Sir

General Mason, the American Commissary of Prisoners, has proposed to me an exchange of seventy two Militia officers, noncommissioned officers and privates, American Prisoners of War taken at Detroit; and sent me a list of the names of thirty eight British officers of Militia, taken at York in April last, and the number |but not the names| of the noncommissioned officers and privates, British Militia, captured at the same time, all of whom, British and Americans are in their respective countries on parole; with a request, that I would select an equivalent number of the latter, to be by him exchanged for the former.

I have declined this partial exchange for many reasons, not given to him, one of which, of itself is conclusive, towit, that it is not in my power to name any of the British Militia non commissioned officers or privates, not having received a list from you.

As he has furnished me with the list above mentioned, I take the liberty to enclose a copy, and to request you will be pleased to direct that the names of the 19 Sergeants, 4 Corporals and 204 privates, therein mentioned, be made out and transmitted to me, and that you will inform me whether the names and number of the Commissioned Militia Officers on the list are correct.—

If convenient I wish to be possessed of lists of the Americans Prisoners now in Canada and of the British in these States.

With respect to the American Prisoners lately sent to Halifax I have received a return from Lieut. Miller the Agent for Prisoners at that Place.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient Servant Tho. Barclay

391 3163 650 127 650 2884 1234 650 1605 808 Two American — Spies have lately — 265 1371 409 808 2184 195 1575 3470 been in Canada particularly at Kingston who 1234 650 2068 650 916 1555 1438 142 have obtained every Information and 808 2584 returned.

[C 690-p 164.]

EXTRACTS OF LETTERS FROM CAPTAIN BULLOCK TO MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR

(*Indians*)

Dated Michilimackinac 25th September 1813

No 1 “I found here the nation of Sioux Indians and some of the Menomines waiting for the arrival of the Indian goods to receive their presents,—In the conversation I had with Mr. Dickson previous to my leaving Sandwich and the instructions I received from you respecting the presents to the Indians, I am led to suppose that Mr. Dickson thought the supplies would arrive from Montreal by the time I got to Michilimackinac, these supplies are not yet arrived and I found the Indian store empty.

The season being far advanced the Sioux became very clamorous, and they having a great distance to go to their homes (some of them 1200 leagues)1

1 The distance named would imply as far west as the Dakotas.

had fixed a day for their departure and would have gone away being much dissatisfied. I in consequence thought it advisable for the benefit of His Majesty's service and to retain their friendship to borrow from the Merchants a sufficiency of goods for them, which I did with difficulty on condition of their being returned as soon as the Indian goods arrive from Montreal,and the Sioux and Menominies went from hence very much pleased on the

19th What I have done notwithstanding it is Militating against the rules laid down for the Guidance of the Indian Department, will I trust meet with your approbation.

In the instructions I received from you, Arms & Gunpowder were mentioned to be sent to the Mississippi, the former of which I could not comply with, there being none in store, the latter “Gunpowder” I have sent in charge of Lieut Grinier of the Indian Department, and the Arms shall be forwarded without loss of time when they arrive from Montreal.”

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No 2 “I have made every inquiry respecting the Enemy in the neighbourhood of the Mississippi and do not learn that any of them are advancing in this direction, should they attempt it, I shall have immediate intelligence from the Interpreters at the Bay and will lose no time in giving you the earliest information thereof.—”

No 3 “I herewith send you an estimate of what provisions it is supposed will be wanted for this Post to the 24th April next, and I also send to the Brigade Majer a monthly return of the garrison for your information.—The commissary informs me that he has not provisions in store for a longer period that the end of next month, I therefore must earnestly entreat you, Sir, to consider our wants before the navigation closes.”

No 4 “There are in this garrison two American Prisoners given up by the Indians the 10th and 12th of August last to Mr. Askin the Indian storekeeper. One of them was taken at the River Raisin, the other at the 4 mile creek, near Fort George, there is also here a Boy, (Peter Bell) 5 or 6 years of age, whose Father and mother were killed at Chicagoe this boy was purchased from the Indians by a trader and brought here, last July by directions of Mr. Dickson1

1 See appendix.

—I could wish to know your pleasure respecting them.”

No 5 “The company of Michigan Fencibles raised here by Mr. Bailey are in a deplorable state for want of clothing, they are in general a good body of men and when drilled may be of service to the country, they are chiefly Canadians inlisted from the service of the Traders and seem to be very well disposed.—With respect to Mr. Bailey I hope some instructions will be sent me concerning him, it being incompatible for him to hold both situations.”

No 6 “Public money at this Post there is none, the dearth of which is injurious to the service, and unless Mr. Commissary Gilmore sends a supply (through which channel I am informed the Commissary here receives it) before the close of the navigation, we shall be badly off indeed.”

(Signed) Richard Bullock Capt. 41st Regt.

Major Genl. Proctor &c &c &c

True copy John Scott Capt & M. B

[C 257-p 154.]

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CAPTAIN BULLOCK TO SECRETARY FREER

(*Indians*)

Michilimackinac , 28th September 1813

Sir

I have the honor to acquaint you for the information of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces that I assumed the command of this Post on the 14th Instant.

On my arrival I found the Nation of Sioux Indians and part of the Menomonis here.—These people had been at Amherstburg with Mr. Dickson the Superintendent of the Western Tribes and were on their return home waiting the arrival of the Indian goods from Montreal to receive their presents The goods are not yet arrived.

The season being far advanced and the distance the Sioux had to go being great they became very clamorous. There being nothing in the Indian store to give them, I thought it advisable for the benefit of His Majestys service to retain the friendship of these tribes by borrowing from the merchants a sufficiency of goods for them previous to their departure as they had fixed a day for leaving this place, which they would have done very much dissatisfied. The goods were borrowed with difficulty on condition of their being returned when those expected from Montreal arrive.

This I hope will meet with the approbation of His Excellency, notwithstanding it is Militating against the rules laid down for the guidance of the Indian Department.

The Sioux and Menomonies left Michilimackinac very much pleased on the 19th.1

1 Placated by the goods, “borrowed from the merchants,” by the sagacious commandant.

I have made every inquiry respecting the Enemy in the neighborhood of the Mississippi and do not learn that any of them are advancing from thence in this direction.

I have the honor to be Sir Your very obedient humble servt Richd Bullock capt. 41st Regt

Lieutenant Freer Mil: Secty King ton

[C 257-p 156] 50

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MAJ. GEN. DE ROTTENBURG TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

Library of Congress

(*War—1812*)

Head Quarters of the Center Division 4 Mile Creek 28th Sept. 1813

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's Three letters of the 21st Inst. and have now to report the Enemy's Fleet came out of the River about 8 oClock last Evening Eleven sail in number and this morning about 10 oClock between Forty & Fifty Batteaux and Large Durham Boats, filled with troops seen coming out of the river steering towards their 4 Mile Creek, where they afterwards lay to, at 11 oClock both squadrons came in sight and in about an hour afterwards came to action at the distance of about twelve from the shore, and in the direction of York But I am sorry to say that the American squadron had the Weather Gage, the wind blowing strong from the south East, the action lasted until 3 oClock P. M. the firing was incessant, and very heavy, and towards the latter part of the Action the ships appeared to be very closely engaged. Captain O.Connor who observed the Action from Queenston Hill, agrees in opinion with an officer who observed the Engagement here, that the Royal George had lost her topmasts,1 In order to ascertain as quick as possible the result of the affair I have dispatched Capt. OConnor for the purpose of getting information and have directed him to communicate with Your Excellency and myself by Express. My ulterior movements must now depend on the issue of this action. I am prepared to meet disasters with fortitude, and assure Your Excellency that any retrograde movement I may be compelled to make, shall be done deliberately and without precipitation The fate of this Province must be decided in a few days—At 5 oClock P. M. the Enemy's small craft and boats reentered the River.—At 6 oClock I received a Flag of truce from Fort George with the enclosed dispatch from Genl Wilkinson to Your Excellency stating that his Letter is of such Public importance, that he requested it might reach you with the least possible delay.

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1 This engagement on Lake Ontario between Com. Chauncey and Sir James Yeo, resulted in damage to the Wolfe and the Royal George, and the speedy retreat of Sir James to York Harbor.

From Reports of Deserters I have every reason to believe that the Force now embarked in their small craft is destined for Sackets Harbour, to act in Conjunction with the Troops there against Kingston—I have made Genl. Darrock acquainted with my suspicions that he may be on his Guard—Had Genl. Proctors Army joined me, and the fact ascertained I should not hesitate falling back upon Kingston, but situated as that General is I do not feel myself authorized in abandoning him, and if fall we must, we will fall 395 together—was not my Army crippled by Disease and dispirited by wants and Misery, we might still have a chance of retrieving affairs even if our fleet should be disabled—The whole Commissariat, with the exception of Mr. I. Coffin is laid up with the Fever, and Mr. Couche is actually out of his senses. The Chief Engineer is confined to his bed with a Fever also at the Head of the Lake—Lieut Kitson is laid up here.—Artillery Artificers in short every most useful person is confined.—Lt. Col. Drummond arrived this evening, and this morning Col: Young proceeded to Burlington Heights to take the Command. The stores and ordnance have all been landed, there, and they are now busily employed in bringing them into the Position. The Militia that I have called out are very useful for these purposes. If I have disappointed Your Excellency in not sending back the Batteaux to Kingston it is to be attributed partly to the shameful neglect of the Commissariat at Kingston who have not supplied the Army with Pitch Oakum &c. which has been repeatedly required for the last four months, the consequence of which is, that I have upwards of twenty Batteaux that will not float.

I have the honor to be most respectfully Your Excellency's Most obedt and most humble sert. Francis de Rottenburg M General.

To His Excellency The Commander of the Forces & & &

[C 680-p. 119.]

TO MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR—WITHOUT SIGNATURE

(*War—1812*)

Head Qrs Kingston 29th Sepr 1813

To Major Genl. Proctor Comg Right Division Sandwich

Sir

I have received the direction of the Comr. of the forces to transmit enclosed for yr information, the copy of a letter addressed this day by His Excellency to Commander Sir Jas. Yeo. Our squadron which arrived in port on Thursday evening, sailed again this morning & have taken under convoy the flotilla of transports with supplies of every description for the Right and Centre divisions of the army.

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Capt. O'Coner the acting commissioner of H. M naval yard at this place has embarked in one of the fleet & has received his Excellency's orders to avail himself of the first opportunity to land at Burlington bay & proceed from there to Amherstburg for the purpose of making himself acquainted with the state & resources of the naval yard at that place, and he has also been desired to make arrangements for laying down another vessel to be built there, during the winter of a discription suitable to the service of Lake Erie & to keep pace with the exertion of the Enemy in respect to a marine force.

Capt. O'Coner has instructions to consult with you upon this subject & to adopt such measures as may appear to you expedient in carrying the object His Excellency has in view into effect.

I have &c

P. S. Mr. Robert Dickson reached Kingston today & will wait here the arrival of a supply of Indian Presents on their way between Lachine & this place, & expected hourly, when he has His Excellency's order to return to yr. Head Quarters by the most expeditious route,1 take with him in his Canoe such articles as are more immediately wanted, the remainder will be forwarded in batteaux to Burlington bay and by land to Long Point, there to be embarked in the squadron for Amherstburg.

1 Harrison's army moving toward the Thames will render unavailing the presents that Dickson bears to the Indians.

[C 680-p 91.]

MR. DICKSON TO SECRETARY FREER

(*Indians*)

York 29th Sept. 1813.

Sir ,

I arrived here the fourth day after I left Kingston. With the assistance of Mr. Cameron I have got the Provisions in the way of being transported to Lake Huron & set out for Michilimackinac to morrow I shall attend particularly to the route & shall transmit you my remarks on the return of the Canoe by the Grand River.

According to your directions I have drawn on Sir John Johnson for the amount of my Pay List £1065. 5. 0 Army Pay & also the abstract amounting £669. 5. 0 Halifax. Mr. McGillivray is in possession of all the accounts contracted by me for the Government, which I trust His Excellency will order to be paid. As Mr. Cruikeshank the D. A. C. General is only ordered to deliver the provisions for Michilimackinac at my requisition I have to

397 request through the Commissary General he may also be authorised to incur the necessary expense of transport.

Should our Fleet be totally destroyed on Lake Erie as we have reason to believe. The Bay of Matchidash or Penetanguishin are both good harbours—and there is plenty of excellent wood in their vicinity for constructing a vessel of any dimensions. There is sufficient depth of water in the River St. Clair in the Spring for twenty gun ships.1

1 Going to show Dickson's accurate knowledge of the Lake Huron country.

I have the honor to be with respect Sir Your most obedient and most humble servant Robert Dickson

Noah Freer Esq. Mil. Secy.

[C 257—p. 160.]

MAJ. GEN. DE ROTTENBURG TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Headquarters of the Centre Division 4 Mile Creek 30th September 1813.

Sir

I have not heard from Major Genl Proctor since the 22nd Instant he was then preparing everything for his retreat and I think it is now high time he should seriously, endeavour to bring his Force in connection with mine provided the Indians will permit him.

I have the honor to be most respectfully &c &c Francis de Rottenburg M General

His Excellency The Commander of the Forces

[C 680-p 125.]

MAJ. GEN. DARROCH TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Sir

I beg to forward to your Excellency two Letters just received, by the Courier. I have learnt nothing more than they contain. It appears by the 398 different movements on each side of Sackets, that they intended to Collect a large Force there—but excepting our Fleet is much damaged, I cannot think they will venture an attack here, at all events we will give them a warm reception.—

I have heard nothing from Lake Erie, Drummond says the Indians will not allow Gl Proctor to come this way.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellency's most obedt very humble servt F. Darroch M. Gl

To His Excellency Lt. Genl. Sir George Prevost Bart &c &c &c.

Kingston 2d Octr 1813 9 oClock evening

[C 680-p 129.]

MAJ. GEN. DE ROTTENBURG TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Head Quarters of the Centre Division . 4 Mile Creek 3d Octr 1813

Sir

Major General Vincent will remain in command of this army and has received my instructions for his guidance during my absence, he will concentrate his Troop and keep the position at Queenston as long as possible and ultimately fall back upon Burlington, keeping up his connection with Genl Proctors army who was according to his last despatch upon the eve of falling back upon the Thames with a large proportion of Indians—I have ordered the Indian presents to be forwarded to him as soon as they arrive at the Head of the Lake.

The two Fleets were in sight of each other this morng but the Enemy getting the wind Sir James Yeo returned to the Head of the Lake, at the Departure of these despatches a gale of wind springs up in favour of our Fleet which may bring on an action1

1 It did, on the 5th October, Commodore Chauncey capturing the Drummond cutter, four transports and 264 officers and men, whom he made prisoners.

I have the honor to be most respectfully &c &c Francis de Rottenburg M. General

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces & &

[C 680-p 138]

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MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR TO MAJ. GEN. DE ROTTENBURG

(*War—1812*)

On the Field 1 5th Oct 1813

1 “On the field,” in a sense, but in preparation for flight and escape from Harrison's army.

Sir ,

I am on the field and in momentary hopes of being attacked, at such a moment I cannot enter into circumstances—The Bearer Mr. Wood is charged with a confidential communication, to which I beg your prompt & most serious attention to the utmost verge of possibility, pray use every effort to supply what is so essentially necessary—

I have the honor to be Sir Your very obedt Servt Henry Proctor maj. Genl. Comg

Maj. Genl. De Rottenburg &c &c &c

[C 680-p 208.]

FROM STAFF ADJUTANT REIFFENSTEIN—UNADDRESSED

(*War—1812*)

Cr the 5th Octr 1813

The Americans attacked Maj Genl Proctors army who were drawn up in a wood 3 miles on the other side of Moravian Town, and after a short fire, took the whole of his little army prisoners with the exception of the Maj: Genl & Personal staff. Lieut Troughton and Asst Surgeon Ogilvie R. A. the officers of the R. N. Fd Regt and the Adjt & Lt Gardiner of the 41st Regt—all the stores— ammunitions, Provo: were taken..... .....

As a report from New York Oct 6th

Col. Murray was attacked—send to Gl Vincent for reinforcements, who ordered him to retreat

I. C. Reiffenstein2 Staff Adjt

2 Reiffenstein was censured for hurrying away and exciting alarm by his public reports of Proctor's defeat at the Thames.

[C 680-p. 169.]

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CAPTAIN HALL TO COLONEL HARVEY

(*War—1812*)

Delaware 5th Oct. 1813

Sir

I am Commanded by Major Genl Proctor to acquaint you for Genl. De Rottenburg's information with the result of an affair that took place with the Enemy near Moravian Town this afternoon about 4 oclock—one of the Guns being deserted early in the Action, the Troops near it gave way and the consequence was a complete route—notwithstanding the exertions of the General to Rally them, so much so that I thought it impossible he could escape being taken—we are just arrived here—The General is so fatigued by riding from the field of Battle on the other side the Moravian Town, through the Wilderness that he cannot write and I am not much better.1

1 See appendix.

I have the honor to be Sir Your very obedt humble servt John Hall capt & Major of Bri:

Col: Harvey &c &c &c

[C 680-p 205.]

TO MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR—WITHOUT SIGNATURE

(*War—1812*)

Head Quarters Montreal 6th Oct. 1813

To Major Genl. Proctor Comg Right division

Sir

The Comr of the forces having received from a respectable character a Memorandum relative to upper Canada, of which the enclosed is an Extract, I am directed to request your upon the suggestions it contains for His Excellency's consideration

I have &c

[C 680-p 145.]

Memorandum

It is known to every person acquainted with the River St. Clair, that near to its sortie from Lac Huron, there is a part of it very narrow, not more than one hundred yards accross; in this spot there is so strong a current 401 that it requires a very stiff Breeze to carry up a vessel.— There is a village of Chipiway Indians stationed on the south side of this Rapid, attracted to the spot by the great quantities of Fish which is there caught. and it was usual for these Indians to be employed in towing up vessels going into Lac Huron. The land on the north side of the River along the Rapid to Lake Huron is low, but that on the south side for several miles is a fine Cotsang and the distance of this place from the River Thames accross the country is no more than about 30 miles— If the Indian continue friendly and a band of them was stationed at this Rapid, supported by a small detachment of Troops and a few guns, it would be impossible for any vessels to pass into Lake Huron & the Post might have communication with that on the River Thames.—from this place it is no more

than four days march—in a canoe to Matchidash or to the Harbour of Penetinguishingue (from which they could draw their provisions) and the latter place 90 miles from York—

Penetingushingue Bay is an excellant Harbour and easy of access from Lake Huron—the Entrance into it is not half a gun shot accross & the ground very commanding—near to the waters edge is the finest oak & pine timber that can be imagined.— Here—(if there are Ship Stores in the Country for the purpose) vessels might be built in course of the winter to command the Lake Huron—& secure the Indians notwithstanding our being driven from Lake Erie, and if circumstances turned out favourably these vessels might afterwards be sent into Lake Erie by lightening them for the River St. Clair. But strengthening the Post of Michilimackinac would form a main part of the present plan—as that must always be considered the Head Quarters of the Indians of Lake Huron & Lake Michigan, its present garrison is by far too weak to be looked upon with any degree of respect— The veterans are drunken old men, and helpless, & the Michigan Fencibles—only fit for being boat men, & little to be depended upon. To make the place respectable in the eyes of the Indians, there should always be one hundred good soldiers in it—It may not be necessary to observe that the Idias here thrown out, are built on the hopes that our Fleet will be successful on Lake Ontario, and that in consequence our present Positions on the Head of the Lake are maintained as well as the connection with the River Thames.

Montreal 6 Oct. 1813

[C 680-p 146.] 51

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SIR GEORGE PREVOST TO MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR

(*War—1812*)

Montreal 6th October 1813

Sir

Your letter of the 21st September reached me on the 2d Instant from the information contained in it I inferred, tho' you do not say as much that the whole of our fleet was in the possession of the Enemy—Since then our Loss has been confirmed by Commodore Perry's official Account of the Action which I now transmit to you.—

It would have been satisfactory to me to have received from you, a more detailed account of the reasons which induced you to urge Captain Barclay to a meeting with the Enemy before the arrival of the seamen, then on their way to him, and which could have enabled him to engage on less unequal terms, more particularly as you appear to have been fully aware of their approach from your having sent Major Chambers to meet and conduct them to Amherstburg.

Until however I receive your report upon this subject I shall do you the justice to believe, that in adopting this measure you have acted with the best motives and upon grounds that will justify it.

I entirely approve of your determination consequent upon this disastrous event, of your making a stand upon the Thames,1 and have the fullest reliance upon the Zeal and Ability you have hitherto manifested, to conduct your retreat so as to afford the Enemy no decided advantage over you:—I recommend to you to persevere in the conduct you are observing, of conciliating the Indians by every means in your power, and you may hold out to them the assurance of receiving a liberal allowance of presents, as soon as you shall reach a Position where they may be forwarded with safety.—A large supply of them have arrived from England, of the very first quality, and will be sent on towards the Head of the Lake.

1 This was Procter's justification for engaging Harrison at the Thames, despite the fact that it was not penned until the day after the battle.

I am happy to find in the midst of all your difficulties that you preserve the unbroken spirit of a British officer which rises superior to them, and which will I trust aided by the valor and decipline of the Troops under your command finally extricate you from them.—

As any re-inforcements would only serve to increase your embarrassments with regard to Provisions, you need not expect any to be sent to you unless you urge the measure, —General De Rottenburg has, in consequence of a demonstration on the part of the Enemy towards his left, sent back to 403 Kingston the two Flank Companies of Delballivills Regiment, which had been ordered to join him from thence.—

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedt humble servt (Signed) George Prevost Commander of the Forces

To Major General Proctor Commanding the Right Division Sandwich

[C 680-p 149]

REGULATIONS REGARDING THE GRANT OF MEDALS

(*War—1812*)

Horse Guards 7th Oct 1813

Considerable inconvenience having been found to attend the encreased number of medals that have been issued in commemoration of the brilliant and distinguished events, in which the success of His Majesty's Arms has received the Royal approbation; The Prince Regent has been pleased to command in the name & on the Behalf of His Majesty, that the following Regulations shall be adopted in the grant & Circulation of such marks of Distinction viz:—

1st That one medal only shall be borne by each officer for such distinction

2nd That for the Second & third Events which may be subsequently commemorated in like manner each Individual recommended to bear the distinction, shall carry a Gold clasp attached to the Ribbon to which the medal is suspended, and inscribed with the name of the Battle, or siege to which it relates.

3d That upon a Claim being admitted to a Fourth Mark of Distinction, a cross shall be borne by each officer, with the names of the four battles or Sieges, respectively inscribe thereupon; and to be worn in substitution of the Distinction previously granted to such Individuals.

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4th That upon each occasion of a similar nature that may occur subsequently to the grant of a Cross, the Clasp shall again be issued to those who have a claim to the additional distinction, to be borne on the Ribbon to which the Cross is suspended, in the same manner as described in No 2 of these Regulations.

His Royal Highness is further pleased to command in the name & on the Behalf of His Majesty, that the distribution of Medals or Badges for Military services of distinguished merit, shall be regulated as follows vizt.

1st That no general or other officer, shall be considered entitled to receive them, unless he has been personally and particularly engaged upon those occasions of great importance and peculiar brilliancy; in commemoration of which the Prince Regent, in the name & on the behalf of His Majesty may be graciously pleased to bestow such marks of distinction.

2nd That no officer shall be considered a candidate for the Medal or Badge, except under the special selection & report of the Commander of the Forces upon the spot, as having merited the distinction by conspicuous services.

3d That the Commander of the Forces shall transmit to the Commander in Chief Returns, signed by himself, specifying the names & Ranks of those officers whom he shall have selected as particularly deserving

4th The Commander of the Forces in making the selection, will restrict his choice to the undermentioned Ranks, vizt.

General Officers

Commanding Officers of Brigade

Commanding Officers of Artillery or Engineers

Adjutant General & Quarter Master General

Deputies of Do. & Do. having the Rank of Field Officers

Assistants of Do & Do having the Rank of Field Officers and being at the head of the staff, with a Detached Corps, or Distinct Division of the Army.

Military Secretary having the Rank of Field Officer.

Commanding officers of Corps or Battalions equivalent thereto; and officers who may have succeeded to the actual command, during the engagement, in consequence of the Death, or removal of the original commanding officer.

By command of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent

(Signed) Frederick Commander in Chief

[C 682-p 72.]

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FROM WHITMORE KNAGGS—UNADDRESSED

(*War—1812*)

Sir ,

Agreeable to my Proposition of last Evening, I shall give you a statement of facts, which is the cause of my confinement and then leave it to your honour to decide—viz. I was assistant Superintendant of Indian affairs & Captain of a Militia Company in Detroit Michigan Territory & was surrendered by General Hull at the capitulation of Detroit & guaranteed agreeable to a Proclamation, issued by General Brock both in person and Property—Shortly after such Proclamation, the Savages who to glut their thirst for Blood hunted me Day & Night for the purpose of assassinating me if they should find me—Finding their searches fruitless—they repaired to my Dwelling and robbed me of about Twelve thousand Dollars—Specie & Effects—after this had taken place I was advised by persons of Respectability living on both sides the River to leave the Country a short time until the anger of the Savages should be assuaged both for my personal safety & the safety of my wife & children. Agreeable to their advice I obtained a permit from Colonel Proctor to depart. Myself & several others chartered a Vessel for that purpose and removed to Presqu'Isle—After that I pursued my route to the States to settle my business & returned to Pittsburg & from there was making the best of my way to Detroit to find may family who were dayly exposed to the insults & Dangers of the Indians —After I left Pittsburg I arrived at the Miama Rapids, I then unexpectedly fell in with a part of General Winchesters Army—the other part had advanced to Frenchtown—I continued on from Miama Rapids to Frenchtown where I had a brother1 living & put up with him —anxious to reach my family before the Army arrived least the Indians might suspect I was with it & massacre my family—However on the next day an Engagement took place between General Winchesters & Colonel Proctors forces about two miles from where I was, in which the former had to retreat & passed by where I was—the Indians finding me at the place took me & carried me to Colonel Proctor, who said I had broken my Parole &

ordered me immediately forwarded to Fort George without any examination—I remained a few days at Fort George when I obtained a Certificate from General Winchester showing that I had nothing to do with the Army—I was then forwarded to Montreal and there examined before the Police & committed as a Prisoner of war, shortly after that I had the assurance of being sent home as soon as the Roads would admit but instead of that I was forwarded to this place and confined as a person having broken his Parole which I am now ready to show by General Winchester & his Officers that I was no ways

1 Brother was James Knaggs also a valorous, capable man.

406 concerned with the movements of General Winchester's Army—directly or indirectly—an investigation of this affair would be highly gratifying to your obt servt1

1 Probably written at Quebec prison about the date of the one following it from Wm. M. Scott.

(Signed) Whitmore Knaggs

[C 691-p 32.]

MR. SCOTT TO COLONEL GARDNER

(*War—1812*)

Sir ,

I beg leave to make a candid statement of my situation—I came into the United States early in 1796. a young man I resided several years there & at length regularly became a citizen—and held some reputable appointments—In this situation I was when surrendered by General Hull to General Brock in Augt 1812— when we were to be protected in Person & Property & the militia of the country to remain peaceably, as if nothing had occurred —Shortly after this I was stripped of all my Personal Property to upwards of $5000— I remained quietly at home & in the Fall had permission from Govr Proctor to depart in

a vessel but the season was late and the vessel leaky, so that we had to return. In this manner I remained until the month of Feby. last, when with a number of Americans I was ordered to quit the Terriotry—for the State of New York, by the way of Fort George & furnished with a regular Pasport as a citizen, “ *to behave as becometh* .” We travelled this distance at our own expence & without any guard. While remaining at Fort George I was examined before His Excellency Sir George Prevost who declared I was to be considered in no other light than the others of Brushe's militia who were all crossed over then. It was not deemed expedient to cross over any more at that place. Col. Brush had permission to return to his family or to go to Kingston and be crossed over there, which he did—two or three days afterwards—while waiting for liberty to cross over—I was warned to hold myself in readiness to proceed to Kingston, I was taken charge of as a Prisoner by the sergeant and conducted to Kingston—from one Goal Guard House or Cell to another & from thence to Montreal where I was examined by the Police & committed as a Prisoner of war—received information I should be crossed over the line, from the Police Office, in the course of a week and just at that time I was forwarded to this city and I am now confined as a British Subject having an intention of joining Harrison's army,” although I have never been examined since, and all winter if I had been disposed so, could have rode to the Army in three 407 hours time as it was not thirty miles distant from my Farm— I have applied to the Chief Justice & the Supreme Court to investigate the case— but without success as yet, If I am a British subject I have done nothing to merit imprisonment— If an American citizen, I am illegally confined and detained in Prison in this manner. The contractor's agent at Malden purchased cattle of mine for which I have not been paid—exclusive of others taken for immediate consumption & to be paid for also for the use of my Horses for expresses and fatigue & in addition to my Horses & Sley which I had to leave about 20 miles back of Fort George when I was made a Prisoner— All these things I have suffered—Without any act or deed, on my part that I know of, to merit this Punishment & to crown all—thrown into the Common Prison, among Felons, Convicts & negroes & sometimes deprived of the common field rations—far from my Family & Friends or the means of assistance or

relief—I hope my case, Sir, being taken into consideration I may be honourably released & suffered to depart in search of my afflicted wife & distressed Family.

I have the honor to remain Sir With profound Respect Your Obedt Servant Wm. M. Scott 1

1 Dr. Scott's name appears on the census roll of Detroit, 1782; a citizen held in much esteem.

Quebec Prison Oct. 8 1813 Col. Gardner &c.

[C 691.]

COLONEL YOUNG TO MAJ. GEN. VINCENT

(*War—1812*)

Burlington Octr 9 1813

Sir

It is with infinite regret I inform you that Genl Proctors Army is completely anhilated—Lt Col: Evans & Capt Muir killed—Lt Col Warburton wounded and Major Chambers also supposed to be killed. The Enemy was advancing and Coln: Hamilton compelled to retreat upon the Grand River; but he expressed himself doubtful whether he will be able to anticipate the Enemy. I cannot yet learn where General Proctor is at this moment, last night he was expected at Ancaster the only person with the General are Capt. Hall and his A, D, C, a few dragoons accompanied him.

Lt Col: H. informs me he was endeavouring to remove the Provisions in wagons which were coming in but the Enemys Cavalry were advancing so rapidly that he was not certain of effecting his own retreat.

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Let me hear what you wish or intend I shall do,—It is impossible to repel the Force coming on,1 but before matters come to the worst, everything possible shall be done.

1 Apprehensive of Harrison's advance in force, and hence was frantically scouring the country for wagons.

I have the honor to be Your mo: obedt humble Servt Robert Young Col

M. Gen: Vincent &c &c &c

I have not a single Batteau that will swim—Waggons most difficult to be found, the people are not our friends, I have parties horse & foot scouring the country for waggons

[C 680-p 184.]

MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR TO MAJ. GEN. VINCENT

(*War—1812*)

Grand River 9th October 1813

My Dear General

I have just received your letter by Mr. Wood, I wrote to you this morning, hoping that my disaster would not cause any immediate retrograde movement, and that I had induced Lt Col: Hamilton to return to Turkey Point, as I had not any expectation now, of the Enemys advancing, soon at least thro' the Wilderness. Colonel Young has sent an officer to order Colol Hamilton to retreat to Ancaster, which I shall take on me to prevent, until the Indians who escaped arrive here at least.2

2 Proctor shows cooler judgment than does Col. Young. Dates from “Grand River,” probably near Brantford.

The consequence of the Enemy's advance and again cutting off the Indian families would be very serious—Four hundred Indians are on the road in one Body, & I think I know of near two hundred soldiers who have arrived and are on the road, besides the probability of others.

I have just heard of more Indians being on the road

I am Sir Henry Proctor M. General

M. General Vincent

[C 680-p 210.]

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MAJ. GEN. VINCENT TO MAJ. GEN. DE ROTTENBURG

(*War—1812*)

Burlington 11th October 1813

Sir ,

I have reported to the Deputy Adjt. General my arrival here this morning, and the different Positions I have taken up for the Troops—I have as yet nothing further to report respecting General Proctor, but I hope I shall have an opportunity before this express sets off, as I have sent Lieut Barnard to find out the General who is some where on the Grand River —for not only information respecting the Enemy's army, but the official statement of his action, and if possible the General to meet me half way, to give me an opportunity of returning here the same night.

I have now to say that my situation requires your serious consideration and most positive order therewith I must risk every action rather than give up so much public stores, as I find

at this Depot and I unfortunately find in the Position I am under the necessity to protect that I may be attacked in my front, flanks or rear—1

1 See appendix.

I have consulted Lieut Col. Bruyeres this day, he agrees with me that my heavy ordnance are not of the least use for any kind of protection to the Depot—I intend therefore, to send the twenty four Pounders the two mortars and the Cannonades, with some ship guns intended for Amherstburg, and their ammunition, to York, the very first opportunity I have of Batteaux, which I am in great want of at present—they may be of some service at York provided we have time to place them in a good situation, and if Col. Bruyeres health will allow, I shall recommend his going there for that purpose. As I have no militia to act on, having almost all deserted home, General Shaws services can be dispensed with from this army, and may be well employed at York. He has therefore my liberty to proceed there tomorrow, with instructions to call out the people of the country, to repair the roads and bridges—and to give out that I am under the necessity of doing so as the quickest mode now for bringing *up all supplies* to the army—which I hope will take away any cause of alarm, in the country.

I expect my determination will be not only approved of by you, but that I shall have the satisfaction before I can receive an answer to this, that orders to the same purpose may be sent me.

My time is so taken up I have not time to write to Colonel Baynes, may I request that he may be informed of the particulars of this letter.

I have the honor to be &c John Vincent M. Genl

Maj. Gen'l de Rottenburg &c &c &c

[C 680-p 212]

GENERAL DARROCH TO SECRETARY FREER

(*War—1812*)

Kingston 12th Octr 1813 9 O'Clock evening

Sir

The above has just been brought me by the staff Adjt of Lt Coln Warburton. He could not meet with Genl Rottenburg on the road—but saw his A. de Camp Lt Crossway at or near Woodruff—7 Miles this side of River Rouge.

I do not Know what to make of his report—I have desired him to state it in writing which he done on the other side. From his account Proctors Division is taken and the Centre Division is in great danger

I have the honor to be Sir Your very humble servant P Darroch 1 Lt Genl

1 Duncan Darroch.

Noah Freer Esq Mil. Secty

[C 680-p 169.]

MAJ. GEN. VINCENT TO MAJ. GEN. DE ROTTENBURG

(*War—1812*)

Burlington 14th Octr 1813

Sir

I have had the honor to receive Your letter of the 10th instant—“if I did ”not Consider myself adequate to hold out against the Superior force of the “Enemy to destroy the stores &c of the Fort and Fall back on Kingston”—

As yet I have not the least fear that a force can be brought against me which would compel me to make a sudden retreat—but I am taking every precaution to send my sick off and those particular stores that would be of most particular advantage to the Enemy—and at all events I should rather risk an action than leave General Proctor and his scattered Army behind, especially having great hopes that in two days I may have an opportunity to find out the number that Can be Collected.2

2 Vincent's display of spirit was much needed at this time.

Lieutenant Barnard is returned—he found the General at the Grand River, where, he informed him, he would remain until Lieutenant Bullock of the 41st Regt joined. who was Collecting the remains of that Corps with some Indians—He likewise informed Lieutenant Barnard that he had 411 promised Colonel Elliott, who had followed the Enemy towards Sandwich, to remain at that situation until his return, and requested this period, before he made out his official letter on the Sudden attack made on him.

I am therefore perfectly ignorant of what had taken place on that day, but by the letters I have already forwarded from the General.

From the want of Batteaux my intention is retarded, and for fear the Enemy may send some of their small craft against York, I have sent Colonel Bruyers with some Artificers to plan some work at York for the two twenty four pounders, which, I am in hopes I shall be able to get from this before two o'clock, in charge of Lieutenant Ritrow and a few Artificers.

Doctor McAulay is ordered to proceed for York to prepare for the sick and if possible to find out some situation for an Hospital at the other side of York.

I am of opinion the 19th Dragoons would be of more service at Kingston or Montreal than here—besides they are much in my way, and I find the greatest difficulty in procuring them forage—I shall therefore, if I find I can do without them, send the whole to join you.

I have taken this post into my most serious consideration, and I have to assure you that from the Barracks which with every exertion may be erected—they would contain not half of the Army, and the Barns are in such a wretched situation with the repairs we could give them—it would be perfectly impossible to make them temporary quarters—Under this Consideration we must retire, without some great change takes place, consequently it is expedient to have a deposit of provisions placed at different situations between Kingston and York to put this into execution—Mr. Couche informs me, steps must be taken from Kingston on which subject he has wrote to Mr. Crookshank.

I should recommend some spirits to be sent up as we have only three days at present at half allowance.1

1 A side-light on army rations in those days.

I have given liberty to Captain Dudgeon of the Royals to return to Montreal at the request of Colonel Stuart, as he belongs to the 4th Battalion of that Regiment.

I have the honor to be &c John Vincent M General

To Major General De Rottenburg & & &

[C 680-p 235.]

412

CAPTAIN MACINTOSH TO CAPTAIN BULLOCK

(*War—1812*)

On board the Nancy, Hired Transport 16th October 1813, 5 miles from St. Joseph's

Sir

Conceiving it my duty to inform you of my return to this anchorage, I take the earliest opportunity of doing so—the particulars I will at present give you. On Monday 4th Inst: I sailed from this place (St. Joseph's) and on the following day at 3 P. M came to an anchor about a mile outside of the rapids of River St Clair, I then sent the Boat ashore with Mr. Reaume & one of my confidential men to enquire of the first person they saw whether it was safe for the vessel to enter the River, the boat in coming off swamped from the heavy sea, which was running, they however got on board again, (I had ordered the boat to return to the vessel so soon as they landed Reaume) about ½ an hour elapsed when my messengers returned to the beach opposite the vessel where it was impossible to take them off from the danger of loosing the boat—the men in the boat however made out to hear from Reaume that *the Fort was taken* , but which Fort, could not be understood—I then determined on running to the foot of the rapids, to learn the true state of Amherstburg,—I was then informed by all the Inhabitants “That Amherstburg and Detroit were in possession of the Americans under “General Harrison—and that General Proctor had retreated by the River“"Thames towards Head Quarters—that our Fleet had an engagement with “that of the Americans & were entirely destroyed, from their being placed “between the large and small vessels of the Enemy which were nearly trible “their number, that we had lost 600 and the Americans 800 men, that all “public Buildings were burnt both at Detroit and Amherstburg, and that “ all the Indians had joined or made peace with the Americans,—after “receiving all this information myself from the Inhabitants I returned on “board—but previous to leaving the shore was also told that two large “schooners & 2 Gun boats were in the river waiting the Nancy at the mouth “of *Thny Ecarto'1 & Point au Chene* —next day about noon a white flag was seen coming towards us in a canoe—about half an hour afterwards I was hailed from the shore by a Canadian ordering me to give up the vessel, and that any property as also that of the crew should be respected, I went

ashore to see who this man was, it was Lt. Col. Beaubien of the Militia who wished me to surrender the vessel to him & repeating what he had already said—I told him I would give him an answer in an hours time—I immediately went back and got all ready, to defend the vessel—after the

1 Chenil Ecarte—a channel through the St. Clair flats at Walpole island; Point au Chene—at Algonac on the St. Clair river.

413 time had elapsed I went to him—gave him my answer which was that I would defend the vessel until necessity compelled me to give her up—& that if the wind proved strong enough I would attempt going back to the Lake, he then replyed “we shall fire on you. I asked what number of men he had, fifty was his answer—I returned to vessel made sail and was fishing the anchor when they commenced firing—I returned the fire as quickly as I received it which continued for about a quarter of an hour or more—they then ceased, whether for want of Ammunition or that we had killed any I know not, during the Action I was placed at the helm and exposed to the whole of their fire—but luckily escaped, several shot struck the main boom & railing—no person was injured from their fire, but the blowing up of a couple of Cartridges burnt one of the men severely on the face and hands—Whether it was a ps of the Cartridge or their fire, our mainsail was blazing which was no sooner seen then extinguished—during the engagement my men behaved with the greatest coolness, & I cannot say too much for them—We were all this time sailing with a very light breeze—but not sufficiently strong to asscend the rappids, that night I received a letter from the same Lt. Col: repeating what he had already said—I returned no reply —this was brought by Reaume who is now with Mr. D. Mitchell, prisoners in their hands —they having gone on shore the morning of the action, next morning at day light we got under weight1 at 8 A m entered the Lake on which we have been fighting the elements for these nine days, twice narrowly escaping going ashore,—How soon the wind comes fair I will proceed for Mackinac, Our sails are very bad—&we have not a single oz of Pork or meat of any kind on board, nothing but biscuit and very little of that—the letters which you delivered me I have still, but have them ready to destroy should a vessel heave in sight

—which I assure you I am apprehensive of—Be pleased to let me know by the first oppy what you wish should be done with the property on board, & vessel. I am Sir

1 Working up through a stiff current—called the rapids, of the St. Clair—upper part of the city of Port Huron.

With the greatest respect Yours Alexander Mackintosh , commander

Captain Rich.' Bullock 41s Regt Comg Fort Michilimackinac

Should I not get away from hence today I will.....necessary in getting some kind of provisions from the inhabitants—and which the commissary, can settle for, I hope it will meet your approbation A. McIntosh

[C 680-p 248.]

414

MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR TO MAJ. GEN. DE ROTTENBURG

(*War—1812*)

Burlington 16th October 1813

Sir

I have been anxiously waiting the arrival of officers and others who were of the right division that I may be enabled to make a full and correct report of my retreat to the Thames, and of the disastrous affair of the 5th inst. near the Moravian Village.

I send Lieut Le Breton, Royal NewfdLand Regiment, with a Flag of truce to ascertain the fate of individuals &c and request to be further indulged until his return ere I transmit my Report.— It is with extreme regret I mention that the conduct of the troops was not upon this unfortunate occasion such as I have on every other witnessed with pride and

satisfaction.1 The inclination to retreat was too strong, nor did I receive that cordial aid I sought and was entitled to. I have to notice and to complain of Staff Adjutant Rieffenstein who not only without leave, but in direct disobedience of orders, has gone to the Lower Province, and with circumstances of marked disrespect. I am confident that tho' unfortunate, I shall not be prejudged, and that opinion will not be formed on vague or malicious Report. In my communications with Major General Vincent, I have mentioned the number I had reason to expect had escaped, more Indians may be expected than I mentioned— They cannot be all in for some days, I shall take the earliest opportunity of writing

1 Proctor's censure of his troops was resented, especially by the 41st regiment. Later evidence was produced at his court martial which contradicted Proctor's statement.

I have the honor to be Sir (Sgd) Henry Proctor major General

Major General de Rottenburg &c &c &c &c

[C 680-p 259.]

MAJ. GEN. DE ROTTENBURG TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston 16th October 1813

Sir

Your Excellency will preceive from the enclosed copies of Letters just received from Major General Vincent and Proctor that affairs in that quarter are by no means so disastrous as have been most shamefully represented by 415 Staff Adjutant Riflestein whose false Reports and speculations upon the extent and consequences of Maj. Gen. Proctors Defeat have been openly circulated by that officer and created the greatest alarm among all

classes of people throughout the whole Country.—Mr. Riflestein assured me that he had not communicated the intelligence of the defeat of M. General Proctors Detachment to any persons, whereas I am assured by an officer who heard him, that he made it the subject of his conversation at a large dinner party at York—Moreover the cause & mode of this Gentleman's quitting the officer to whom he was attached calls for enquiry.

Your Excellency will perceive on reference to my Letter to M. General Vincent of the 13th (of which copy has been transmitted to you) that that officer has anticipated all my wishes and directions as intimated in that letter.—I feel that the conduct of the operations of the Centre Division may be safely confided to Major Genl Vincent—I am equally satisfied with the firmness evinced under his difficulties by M. General Proctor.—

As the Squadron could not reach the Head of the Lake with the present winds without a greater sacrifice of time than can at present be risqued, it has been decided to send up the Vincent schooner which may be useful in assisting the transport of stores &c from Burlington to York.—she will sail to night and I shall risque a few stands of arms and some Indian Presents (articles much wanted) on board her.

The great extent of the works here and their unfinished state certainly requires a very large garrison for the defence of this place and I cannot regret having detached from the Centre Division, which, with the remains of M. General Proctors and the Indians accompanying him, will still have as many there as can be fed and more than can be easily covered either at Burlington or York.—Untill Your Excellency's pleasure is communicated I shall not make any alteration in the orders which I have given to M. General Vincent (in the letter above referred to) which leaves it discretional with him to Maintain his present Position or to fall back upon York according to circumstances

I have the honor to be most respectfully Your Excellency's most obedient and most humble servant Francis De Rottenburg M. General.

His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bart Commander of the Forces

[C 680-p 216.]

416

MAJOR COCKBURN TO LIEUT. COL. PEARSON

(*War—1812*)

Prescott October 17—1813

Sir

I have the honor to inform you that in compliance with your instructions I left this place about ten O'clock last night & proceeded with a Detachment of the Canadian Regiment to the Red Mills, where I succeeded in capturing a Picquet of the Enemy's Dragoons consisting of one Lieutenant & seven Privates—I also brought away with me nine Horses together with their Bridles Saddles &c— Owing to the folly of the Enemy in firing upon us from the House in which he was posted, one of his Serjeants & one Private was killed & one Private badly wounded

I have the honor to be Sir Your obedt humble servt Ran. Cockburn m. Genl. Comg.

Lt. Col. Pearson &c. &c. &c.

[C 680-p 225]

LIEUT. COL. PEARSON TO COL. BAYNES

(*War—1812*)

Prescott October 17th, 1813—

Sir ,

In my last letter I had the honour to inform you, that a Detachment of the Enemy's Dragoons had made their appearance in Ogdensburg, it appears that this force consisted of 180 Troopers of the 1st Regiment of United States Lt. Dragoons, and that they are now stationed on the frontier extending down as far as Hamilton. On receiving advice that one of their Picquets was stationed at a large Mill, about eight miles from Prescott, I determined to attempt surprising it, and sent Major Cockburn with a Detachment of the Canadian Regiment for that purpose, who I am happy to say succeeded in capturing and destroying the whole Party, with the exception of two Privates who unfortunately made their escape. The Prisoners will be forwarded this morning in charge of Capt. Daly of the Militia of Lower Canada, who with a detachment of his regiment is proceeding to join his corps.

417

I will thank you to inform me what His Excellency's intentions are respecting the captured men and Equipment, they are well adapted either for the Artillery or Cavalry—

I hope His Excellency will not disapprove of the steps I have taken by acting offensively on the Enemy's shore—

In consequence of General Hampton's1 army not making any demonstration towards St. Regis or on that part of their Frontier, I have forwarded Major Dennis with the Flank companies of the 49th Regt. to Cornwall, and have detained the voltigeurs at Johnstown for a few days, to be in readiness to support this Post, if occasion should require them, particularly as the Enemy's Expedition is expected to be in perfect readiness to move, and their object not yet exactly ascertained, although I cannot help entertaining the idea that Kingston and Prescott are their immediate object; I have apprized M. Genl. de Rottenburg of the steps I have taken.

1 See appendix.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient servant I. Pearson Lt. Col.

To Col Bayns A. G. N. A.

I expect a messenger from S. H. this night he was to have returned last night, his Information I shall instantly transmit to the necessary Posts.

[C 680-p 226.]

MAJ. GEN. DE ROTTENBURG TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston 18th October 1813

Sir

I have the honor to transmit enclosed the substance of information received last night through the medium of a respectable Inhabitant, who was sent by Colonel Cartwright on that service.—The opinion I am inclined to form from the information is, that the Enemy frustrated in his designs against Kingston, by the rapid movement of Troops, and of the squadron to this Point, never having seriously intended anything against Lower Canada, or even Prescott, having a large body of disposable Troops collected at Sacketts Harbor, and immense means of transport, with the disposal of which Force 53 418 he is now perplexed, may adopt the resolution of landing a considerable part of it in the rear of the Centre Division, and establish himself at York. Checked as I am, by the Enemy's formidable, and menacing attitude at Sacketts Harbour, Your Excellency will see the difficulty of my making any further effort at present in favor of the Centre Division—If I detach troops, and the squadron (by which alone troops could move at present) to York, I

uncover this place, and invite the Enemy to attack it, and if attacked, in the absence of the Fleet, and with a reduced Garrison it must fall.

Under these circumstances, strongly impressed with the probability of the Enemy's diverting his designs from this place, which he finds prepared, to York which he knows to be defenseless and by which position, he may entertain a hope of the capture of the Center Division, in cooperation with the Force under General Harrison.1 I have thought it right to direct, or rather to repeat my directions, to Major General Vincent to hasten his arrangements for retiring to York, by sending to that place as fast as he can command the means of conveyance all his stores, Guns, (a proportion of Field Guns excepted) Provisions, sick, and in short every encumbrance, and to march with the whole division to that Place as soon as he has completed the removal of these things, and I have informed him that the squadron will be held in readiness to follow the motions of that of the enemy, whenever it is clearly ascertained, that he makes a movement upwards, and that I shall also embark on board of it, every man I can spare to his assistance—The necessity of not dividing the squadron is now more apparent than ever—Commodore Sir James Yeo, will accordingly report to Your Excellency the arrangement of Gun Boats and floating Battery which he proposes to substitute for the lighter vessels of his squadron, which he had intended to detach to the lower Point of Long Island—

1 See appendix.

This arrangement together with a rapid communication by signal will I hope be established before this evening—In the mean time the weather is so boisterous, that no movement could be made by the Enemy's small craft—2 OClock. I have this moment received the enclosed letter from Major General Vincent.

The affair of the 5th appears to have been a sudden irruption of an overwhelming force upon the 41st Regiment, which gave way, and dispersed, but is rapidly recollecting. The Enemy satisfied with his slight success appears immediately to have fallen back upon

Sandwich followed by our Indians under Colonel Elliott. General Proctor is collecting his Division on the Grand River and had sent to General Vincent to say, that he required nothing from him but Provisions, which had been sent.—The order to which 419
Major General Vincent alludes in the first paragraph of his letter was given by me, in consequence of the information false and scandalous as now appears, which was verbally given to me, by Lieutenant Riflestein, that Gen Harrison with 8000 men, had utterly defeated and Captured, the whole of Major General Proctors force, and was Rapidly advancing on Burlington, at which place he informed me General Proctor had arrived, although the Major General never was nearer than within 36 miles of it,—Genl. Proctor states to Major General Vincent in a letter forwarded by the Deputy Adjutant General to Col. Baynes, the Lieut Riflestein had merely his orders to go to Ancaster, and that by going beyond that place he had been guilty of a positive disobedience of Orders—I hope some serious and public notice will be take of Lieut: Ritlesteins Scandalous Conduct

I have the honor to be most respectfully Your Excellency's Most obedt and humble Servt
Francis De Rottenburg M. Genl

P. S. I enclose a report of a Boat containing an American Officer, and ten soldiers having been thrown on the Isle Forte, from Oswego—they are part of the Troops on their passage from Niagara to Sacketts Harbour, of which I have reason to believe a great many have been wrecked—I shall send them on by the first opportunity to Montreal.

His Excellency The Commander of the Forces

[C 680-p 242.]

FROM MAJ. GEN. VINCENT—UNADDRESSED

(*War—1812*)

Burlington 18th October 1813

Sir

I have every reason to suppose General Harrison and his Army have returned to Sandwich1 but whether he intends to make an attack on me from Fort Erie or Long Point is yet to be determined at all events I see no necessity to retire from this Position, from any present attack of the Enemy and notwithstanding my former opinion and which I do not now change that this is no situation for the least protection to the country still I shall urge every exertion to cause the different Barracks to be erected according to your original order and plans but I fear that the contractors have not the different Articles required for their purpose and that in the end we shall be disappointed.

1 After defeating Proctor at the Thames.

As I was not in the habit of seeing any of your private letters from the Commander of the Forces in the Plan and defence of the Country. I 420 cannot judge the necessity of building Barracks at Burlington in preference to Ancaster but if I am left in Command here for the protection of the Army I shall prefer the latter place,

I hope by the Express I shall receive your final and perfect order how I am to act and that you will take into your most serious consideration before you give them what is to become of General Proctor and the Grand River Indians1 —if they once quit us they are lost for ever and from that instant are changed to Enemies from this alone it is with reluctance (if it be possible to keep) I would give up the Country and if we are obliged to do so our Indians must be taken with us provided they consent to come but General Proctor who is at present with me thinks the whole will immediately quit us and more especially as we have no presents to give them on their arrival. I understand from Col: Claus that what Indian Presents there were coming up were ordered back by Lieut: Col: Coffin I hope this is not the case if so that they may be returned without loss of time as I am under the necessity of supplying the Indians from the ordnance store with Ammunition.

1 These were the tribes of the Six Nations of New York state who, having served the British cause in the Revolutionary War, were granted a very large tract of land along the Grand river in Ontario, to compensate them for the territory sequestrated in New York.

I have to report the arrival of Col: Elliott with some Indians about 150 he informs me that about 500 are following him but will not be in for a few days having to Collect their families.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Most obedt servt (Sgned) John Vincent M. General

[C 680-p 261.]

MAJ. GEN. VINCENT TO MAJ. GEN. DE ROTTENBURG

(*War—1812*)

Burlington 19 Oct 1813

Sir

I have to report that Major General Proctor has joined this Army and affords me every assistance as Second in Command.

I have the honor to be Sir (Sgd) John Vincent M. General

Major Genl. de Rottenburg &c &c &c

[C 680-p 264.]

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CAPTAIN BULLOCK TO COLONEL BAYNES

(War—1812)

Library of Congress

Michilimackinac 21st October, 1813

Sir

I have the honor to acquaint you for the information of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces that on the 3d Inst: I received an account from Major General Proctor of the Capture of all our vessels by the Enemy near Amherstburg on the 10th ultimo, and that he had urged the necessity of sending supplies of Provisions to this Post from York by way of Matchedash.

Amherstburg being the place from whence Michilimackinac & St. Joseph's have been hitherto supplied, the unfortunate event of the 10th has completely cut us off of every dependence from that quarter; at the time I received the information, the Government Provision was nearly exhausted, there remaining but 68 lb sixty eight pounds of salt meat in store and Flour only sufficient to serve the garrison for one month—The advanced season of the year rendering the supplies from York very precarious I immediately turned my mind to find out what resources there were on the Island and in its vicinity, and I accordingly directed Mr. Bailey of the Commissiariat Department to proceed without loss of time to the small settlements in the neighbourhood for that purpose and to purchase every species of Provisions he could procure both on the Island and places adjacent, and I am happy to say that the resources within our reach will be sufficient for us to live upon to the end of February next, there will be then more than two months for us to provide for before the season will admit of any supplies arriving here from Montreal or York, as I am informed by the Traders it is generally the middle of May or later before canoes arrive here from those places By our exertions in getting fish, using strict economy, and substituting one specie of Provisions for another, I am in hopes we shall be able to support ourselves until that period, but should the Enemy send any of the armed vessels to Lake Huron this fall or early in the spring no supply whatever can reach us—

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The schooner Nancy belonging to the N. W. Company in Government employ with Gunpowder & Ordnance stores from the Post of Amherstburg (by order of Major General Proctor) was attacked by a party of the Enemy in the River Sinclair on the 6th Inst: under the command of a Lieut Coln of Militia; the spirited exertions of Mr Alexander Mackintosh her commander, & his small crew prevented her falling into their hands. I herewith send you Mr. Macintoshes report to me on the affair.—Mr Macintosh returned 422 to this place with his vessel on the 18th and reports the sails so much damaged as to render her unfit for the Lake until supplied with new ones, no materials of that description are to be had here, he is going with her to the Sault St. Marys where there is an establishment of the N. W. Company for the winter.

I have the honor to be, Sir Your very obedt humble servt Richard Bullock capt. 41st Regt.

Colonel Baynes Adjutant General Kingston

[C 680-p 251.]

CAPTAIN BULLOCK TO COLONEL BAYNES

(*Indians*)

Michilimackinac 23d Oct. 1813

Sir

I have the honor to inform you that agreeable to the Instructions received from Major General Sir R. H. Sheaffe I have this day detached one subaltern, 1 sergeant, and twenty six Rank & the of the Michigan Fencibles with six Boats under the direction of Mr. Robert Dickson of the Indian Department to La Baye1 on the west side of Lake Michigan eighty leagues from hence where it is probable they will remain during the winter.

1 Green bay district, but Dickson intends wintering on the Mississippi.

I send you the monthly return of this Post for the 24th September.

I have the honor to be Sir Your very obedt humble servt Richard Bullock Capt. 41st Regt

Col. Baynes Adjt. General & & & Montreal

[C 257-p 164]

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CAPTAIN BULLOCK TO SECRETARY FREER

Michilimackinac 23d Octr

Dear Sir

The Newspapers and Army List you were so kind to send by Mr. Dickson was a welcome treat to us here as we seldom hear anything of passing events, & if you would have the goodness, when an opportunity offers to send a few more with anything new at the time1

1 Isolated post with regular communication cut off; newspapers especially welcome.

You will much oblige Dear Sir Your very obedt servant Richd Bullock , cap. 41st Regt

Lieut. N. Freer Mil: Secty, Montreal

[C 257-p 159]

MR. DICKSON TO SECRETARY FREER

(*Indians*)

Library of Congress

Michilimackinac Oct. 23d 1813

Sir

Leaving York on the 2d Inst: after having made the necessary arrangements for the transport of Provisions, I was unfortunate enough to be detained twenty days on my route to this place by tempestuous weather.

On my arrival here, I found that Capt. McKay2 had every thing ready for my proceeding to the Interior, it is very fortunate as any detention at this late season would be very injurious.

2 Capt. William McKay, a brave and trusted officer of the Indian Department. Will figure largely a year hence in the recapture of Prairie du Chien.

The assortment of Indian Goods sent up is an excellent one, and I think it fully adequate to support the Indians for this Winter.—You will please inform His Excellency, that I expect to receive orders during the Winter what steps I am to take next Spring, it is probable that I shall be on the Mississippi during the winter.

Should the Enemy make no attempt on this Post before the navigation Closes, I am fully of opinion, that with proper support we will be able to baffle any attempt of the Enemy for the next season. Capt McKay and Mr. Crawford are fully acquainted with the state of this part of the Country, and will be both of the greatest service in bringing forward whatever may be 424 necessary for the supply and defence of this Island. Capt Bullock is doing everything in his power to make it as secure as possible.

I should have been happy to have sent His Excellency a Journal of my Voyage last spring as he requested, but the advanced period of the season precluded me from having that satisfaction at present.

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I send you a map of Lake Simcoe on a large scale. I think that if a road is to be Cut the best route is from Kempenfelt Bay to that of Penet Angusheen.—

I trust that my accounts contracted for the Government, will meet with the approbation of His Excellency, as they were indispensably necessary

I have the honor to be with Sentiments of Respect Sir

Your Most Obedt & humble Servt Robert Dickson

Noah Freer Esq

[C 257-p 162.]

CAPTAIN BULLOCK TO SECRETARY FREER

(*War—1812*)

Michilimackinac 23 October 1813

Sir

Your letter by Mr. Dickson who arrived here yesterday directed to Capt. Roberts 10th R. V. B.1 dated 22d September was opened by me wherein a reference is made to Mr. Dickson for the Commander of the Forces wishes respecting this Post.—Mr. Dickson and I have consulted together as to the means of defence for the security of Michilimackinac and we are of opinion that should the Enemy not attack us here this fall, that the first and most essential thing to be recommended to the consideration of His Excellency is the building this winter six large Gun Boats at Matchedash Bay to protect supplies of any description from falling into their hands—That a reinforcement of a least Two hundred men, with an officer of Engineers and Twenty Artillery men would be required, and ordnance as per the enclosed return—A stockade Blockhouse (with a well inside the stockade) would also be

most essentially necessary to be built on a height about nine hundred yards in rear of the Fort, This height completely commands the Fort, and should an enemy with cannon once get possession of it, the Fort must consequently fall—It would likewise be very important that a deep well formerly cut through a rock inside the Fort and which has been allowed to fill up by the sides falling in should be cleared, the garrison having no other means at present to obtain water but by fetching it in Tubs or buckets

1 Royal Veteran Battalion.

425 from a spring outside the Fort and which an Enemy on landing could not be prevented from taking possession of.—

Should the Commander of the Forces approve of what I have here stated; with about three hundred Indians and Provisions for them I think that this Island can be defended against the Enemy.

The Pork & Flour which you mentioned in your letter that Mr. Dickson was to take in charge, and which we are so much in want of, I am sorry to say he has not brought, I understand from him that it was to be forwarded from York to Matchedash on Lake Huron to which place he informs me I must send for it, and I shall lose no time in sending what canoes I can for that purpose.1

1 Late in the year, and a stormy lake, but must have the supplies.

To Lewis Crawford & Wm. McKay Esqrs. of N. W. Company who are going to Montreal and who intend to wait on His Excellency I refer him to for any further information he may require respecting this Post, and who are well acquainted with our situation here.

I have the honor to be Sir Your very obedt humble servt Rich Bullock Capt 41st Regt

Lieut: Noah Freer Mil: Secty Montreal

Library of Congress

[C 680-p 255]

RETURN

Return of the Undermentioned Ordnance, Ammunition and stores, wanted for this Post Michilimackinac 22d Oct. 1813 .

Six Pounders Brass on Traveling Carriages with small stores complete Two

Shot

Grape 6 Pounders One hundred

Case 6 Pounders with Powder One hundred

Portfires Dozens Six

Mortars 8 inch with stores complete Two

Shells

Fixed 8 inch One hundred

Unfixed 8 inch One hundred

Cartridges flannel 6 pounders One Thousand

ALEXR. PILMOUR Military Conductor of Stores

Richard Bullock Captain 41st Regiment commg.

[C 680-p 257.] 54

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REPORT OF EXAMINING COMMITTEE

Michilimackinac 28th Oct. 1813

In pursuance of an order date the 25th Inst:—from Captain Richard Bullock of the 41st Regiment Commanding the Post of Michilimackinac—We the undersigned appointed to examine the state and condition of the schooner Nancy, where of Mr. Alexander Mackintosh is commander; do report that the said schooner is not fit to be sent to Matchidash on account of the insufficiency of her sails and cables. The only good sails she has are the two top gallant sails, squaresail & one cable—The fore top, main Top, fore & main sails Jibs & one cable unservisable

John Askin Jr

Fredk Oliver

John McGulpin

[C 680-p 336.]

COLONEL BARCLAY TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Washington 23d October 1813

Sir ,

The American Secretary of State has directed the Commissary General to state to me in a private and unofficial manner, that complaint has been made to him that Dr William McDougal Scott,1 a native of Ireland & a Citizen of these States, whose residence was at Detroit and who was Marshal of that District and Doctr Wood, a native American, a private

character, who resided at Lake Champlain—are at present confined in Dungeons or other wretched parts of the Prison at Quebec, and otherwise treated with extreme severity—The Secretary of State further directed the Commissary to inform me that he was unwilling to take the statement from the friends of these persons pro confesso, and thereon take such measures as should be considered necessary, in the hope I might obtain from you the facts, and if these person were treated with a severity beyond ordinary cases, the reason why it was exercised upon them individually. From the polite manner in which this communication was made, and the postponement of any retaliatory measures, until I receive your answer, I am induced to hope you will furnish me with the facts and reasons, if these men are confined as above represented, in order that I may communicate the same to the Government.

General Mason the Commissary has acquainted me this day that the American Government consider it impracticable to send the Naval & Military Prisoners, taken on Lake Erie and Near Malden, to your advanced post, this autumn, but that they shall be conveyed as early as practicable in the 427 Spring. The men taken on Lake Ontario are ordered to embark at Salem in Massachusetts for Halifax.

I have the honor to be with great respect Sir Your obedient servant Tho. Barclay

His Excellency General Sir George Prevost, Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 691-p 54.]

MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR TO MAJ. GEN. DE ROTTENBURG

(*War—1812*)

October 23d 1813 Ancaster 1

1 Ancaster—now Rifle Range, is a few miles southwest of Burlington, Ontario. This letter is Proctor's official report. The buildings at Detroit “were destroyed” by fire as ordered by him.

Sir

Having decided on the necessity of retiring on the Thames, It became immediately an object of the utmost importance to convince the Indian Body of its expediency also, and likewise to dispell all apprehension of their being deserted by us. Both of which to a considerable degree were effected, by commencing with the Chief Tecumthei and then by means of him. The Indian cause and ours experienced a serious Loss in the Death of Roundhead. On the 24th ulto I consentrated my Force at Sandwich, having previously sent off to the Thames my remaining Ordnance and Stores of every Description for which Transport could be found, and destroying the small Portion that remained, as well as the Public Buildings &c. &c. at Amherstburg. On the 26th the Enemy appeared in the offing, sounding in every direction, and on the 27th landed nine miles below Amherstburg in considerable Force. On the same evening the Public Buildings at Detroit were destroyed, I commenced my retreat, and by easy Marches arrived on the 29th at the River Thames. I had immediately after the Loss of our Fleet, observed an Impatience to retire, by which however I was not influenced ere it became at least prudent. A considerable number of Indians remained; but not from the want of attachment to us, nor do I apprehend any Deminution of it whilst our conduct is such as to retain the confidence of those who have accompanied us, I was disheartened, tho' I could not but observe that the idea of making a stand on the Thames, below the Wilderness, A 428 wood between the Moravian Town and Deleware the Road thro' which is thirty four miles and very bad, or maintaining any Position on it was generally treated as visionary; and that every Direction given for that Purpose was received with apathy, and I soon perceived that it would not be in my Power to occupy the Narrows of the River Sinclair as I had intended, and prevent the Enemy's vessels passing into Lake Huron. I had assured the Indians that we would not desert them, and it was my full Determination to have made a stand at the Forks

(Chatham) by which our vessels and stores would be protected, but after my arrival at Dover, three miles lower down the River I was induced to take Post there first, where Ovens had been constructed, and where there was some Shelter for the Troops; and had accordingly directed that it should be put into the best possible state of Defense, that time and circumstances would admit of. Indeed it had been my Intention to have opposed the Enemy nearer the Mouth of the River; *had not the Troops contrary to my Intention, been moved during my absence of a Few hours* for the purpose of acquiring some knowledge of the country in my rear. On the 3d Inst during another unfortunate attempt for the said Purpose with the Officer of Engineers whom Indisposition had prevented waiting on me, from the 24th ulto: to the evening of the 2d Inst. The Troops, on the Advance of the Enemy, retired until stoped at the Forks; and altho' the measure was at the time strongly opposed by the Indian Body, It had the effect of determining them the next morning to immediately retreat to the Moravian Town *And which on my Arrival was Carrying into effect; a hasty measure that made it requisite to immediately sink and destroy the Vessels and Naval stores brought from Amherstburg as well as all others that could not, from the want of Time, or means be removed* , and which was accordingly done. Immediately on my Determination to fall back Directions were given and measures immediately taken for the Construction of Ovens, and a sufficiency of Peroques or large Canoes on the Communication had my intentions been carried into effect promptly we should have been well accommodated with Provisions, and not encumbered with them on the move, as I had explicitly directed, that every article of Food should be in our rear, and that Portions of it, as well as Individuals of the Commissariat be at stated distances for the Accommodation of the sick, and of the women & children, *who were to be sent off as conveyances could be found* . In short every measure was adopted that my experience or Enquiries could prompt for the disencumbering my Force and facilitating its supply's. *In the attempt to save Provisions and Ammunition* we became encumbered with Boats not suited to the state of the Navigation. The Indians and the Troops retreated on different sides of the River and the Boats to which sufficient attention had not been given became particularly 429 exposed to the Fire of the Enemy who were advancing on the side the Indians were

retiring, and most unfortunately fell into the possession of the Enemy, and with them several of the men, Provisions, all the Ammunition that had not been issued to the Troops and Indians. This disastrous circumstance afforded the Enemy the means of crossing and advancing on both sides of the River; Finding the Enemy were advancing too near I resolved to meet him, being strong in Cavalry, in a wood below the Moravian Town, which last was not cleared of Indian women & children, or of those of the Troops; nor of the sick. The Troops were formed with their left to the River; with a reserve and a six pounder, on the Road near the River. The Indians on the Right. The want of Ammunition was unknown to the men, and but to few of the officers. My only anxiety was on that head, which I made an immediate attempt to procure a supply of, as well as the Flour and Corn, and awaited the Result of the Attack with full confidence. The Gun which certainly should have produced the best effect if properly managed, was in possession of the Enemy immediately as the attack commenced, without having fired a shot. This circumstance operated so very unfortunately that the Line commencing near the Left gave way, and notwithstanding the Exertions of the officers in general could not be reformed or the men rallied. Having in vain endeavored to call the men to a sense of Duty and having no chance by remaining, but of being captured, I reluctantly quitted the ground, and narrowly escaped being taken by the Enemy's Cavalry. I cannot but observe, that the Troops do not seem to have had that Confidence in themselves, that they have shewn on every former occasion, and which had produced a conduct that I witnessed with Pride and satisfaction, and which had they felt, in the late unfortunate Instance, would I am confident, have produced quite another result, and have placed me in a very different state from what I feel myself in at present. Having already waited too long for the return of Lieut LeBriton1 whom I sent with a Flag of truce to ascertain the Fate of Individuals &c I shall no longer delay, but take the Earliest opportunity of giving any information I may obtain respecting the late unfortunate affair of the 5th Inst. with deep concern I mention the Death of the chief Tecumthei, who was shot on the 5th Instant. I must mention that the Indians repulsed the Left of the Enemy. The conduct of the Enemy's Cavalry was marked by peculiar cruelty to the Families of the Indians who had not time to escape or conceal themselves.

1 Le Breton.

I have the honor to be Sir Your obedient servant Henry Proctor Major General

Major General de Rottenburg Kingston

[C 680-p 273.]

430

MAJ. GEN. DE ROTTENBURG TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston 30th October 1813

Sir

I have the honor to enclose Major General Proctor's Despatch relative to the unfortunate affair of the Moravian village— His statement appears to me very unsatisfactory, and subject to further explanations— From Major General Vincent I have letters up to the 23d at which period he had not received the orders to effect his retreat in the manner prescribed by the Adjt. General's letter of the 16 Instant I trust it will be conducted in a better style than that from the 4 Mile Creek to Burlington, which was effected in a most shameful manner, and with an unnecessary precipitation, I have called upon the Major General to report the losses he has sustained— I must confess that it will be a difficult task to save the whole of the stores at Burlington, at this time of the year, when the conveyance by water as well as by Land is almost impractable— The 20 Batteaux I sent from this nearly three weeks ago, had not reached the Head of the Lake on the 23d—the weather having been constantly stormy. The Indians that will follow the retreating army, will also be a great encumbrance— I am told the six nations are coming to the Bay of Quinte, and we shall find it very difficult to feed them.

The Enemy has made a movement in Force round Carleton Island and Sir James has sent out reconnoitring Boats to ascertain the point they are gone to—they have been erecting Log Houses opposite Grand Isle for the purpose of giving more shelter to their Troops, so much crowded at Grenadier Island.

Commissary Turquand reports to the Commissary General the great difficulties that he experiences here in procuring supplies, more on account of the means of conveyance than actual want in the country.

I have the honor to be respectfully Your Excellency's Most obedient & most humble servant Francis De Rottenburg M General

His Excellency the Commander in Chief of the Forces &c &c &c

[C 680-p 353.]

431

EARL BATHURST TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Downing Street 31st October 1813.

No 50

Sir

Since last I had the honor of addressing you I have received and laid before The Prince Regent your dispatches to No 86 inclusive.

Altho' the latter part of the campaign has not been distinguished by any decisive operation, yet His Royal Highness could not observe without great satisfaction that the same zeal

and spirit which had, from the commencement of the war, marked the Conduct of His Majesty's Troops in Canada, continued to animate their exertions.

The affairs at Beaver Dam & Black Rock, and the success which attended the expedition on Lake Champlain, afforded the best criterion of the skill & judgment of the officers and the valour and Discipline of the men engaged.

His Royal Highness regrets the loss of the officer who was more particularly distinguished in the conduct of the two former actions: By the death of Colonel Bishopp, His Majesty's Troops in Canada and the service in general have been deprived of an officer who had uniformly evinced the greatest zeal and activity and had given an earnest of much future military Talent.

The Tone of Confidence in which you speak of the squadron under the command of Sir James Lucas Yeo leads me to anticipate most important successes not only against the Naval Force of the Enemy opposed to it, but against that part of the Enemys army which is stationed in the Vicinity of Fort George.

His Majesty's Government entirely concur in the reasons which have induced you to defer offensive operations against the latter, until the Naval Superiority on Lake Ontario, should have been effectually established—I trust that there is at this moment no longer any doubt on that subject, but in case any unfortunate accident should have occurred to disappoint the expectations which His Majesty's Government entertain in common with yourself, I would impress upon you the necessity of so using, during the winter, the naval means, which have been placed at your disposal, so as to be secure against an inferiority, if not to maintain an ascendency on the Lakes; The officers & Men which have been despatched from this country, & the authority which you will have received to apply to Sir J. Warren for an additional Force, if circumstances shall render it necessary, will afford material assistance in effecting this object and will remove any doubts which you may have previously entertained with respect to your Powers of manning a large fleet.

I have not failed to draw His Royal Highness's attention to the good conduct 432 of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Quebec, and the Example which he has given to his Flock of Loyalty & attachment to His Majesty.

The representations of the Chief Justice and Puisne Judges of the District of Montreal has been submitted to the consideration of His Majesty's Law servants, and I shall have the honour at an early period of communicating to you their opinion.

His Royal Highness the Prince Regent has been pleased to approve on the part of His Majesty of your having taken into the Service the three vessels captured in the River Richelieu—

The mode which you have adopted with respect to the distribution of Army Prize Money has also received His Royal Highness's approbation and you will continue to adopt such General Rules on this Subject as you may consider most Just and expedient until His Royal Highness shall be pleased in Council to appoint some general rule for distributing Booty taken by the Army—The Distribution of Prizes which may be taken by the Ships and Vessels on the Lakes, must be governed by the Rules laid down in His Majesty's Proclamation of the 26th October 1812 of which a copy is enclosed: For as that Proclamation applies to all cases of Capture on the Seas in which the Lakes & waters of America have for all purposes of Naval Description been included by the 29th Geo: 2d C 27 it appears sufficiently to provide for the case to which you refer. You will observe however that that Proclamation reserves for His Majesty's special decision all cases in which His Majesty's Land and Sea Forces shall have co-operated in making the Prize—Many of the Prizes which may hereafter be made in North America will I apprehend prove to be of this Description, and must therefore be submitted to the Council for distribution between such parts of the Land & Sea Forces, and their respective commanders as may have been assisting at the Capture—The fact however of Soldiers serving on board Ships give no Title to Prize Money to any Individuals, except those actually so serving, nor do I conceive that you as Commander in Chief can have any legal Right to share in Naval

Captures unless some portion of the Army employed on shore shall have been assisting at them—I fully enter into the motives which have induced you to make a reference to me upon this Subject, and I trust that the Explanation which I have given will prove satisfactory.

I have the honour to be Sir Your most obedient Humble Servant Bathurst

To Lieut General Sir Geo. Prevost.

[C 680-p 356.]

433

CAPTAIN ROBERTS TO SECRETARY FREER

(*Royal Veteran Battallion*)

Dillon's Hotel 31st October 1813

Sir in taking advantage of the leave his Excellency the Commander of the Forces had been pleased to grant me. I had resourse to the usual means of proceeding to Montreal by the Grand River in a canoe navigated by a guide and six men whose wages alone not including the expenses of the canoe and the provisions for the men amounted to fifty pounds Halifax currency.—

As in the present situation of affairs I have no choice left as to the route I had to take.

I humbly request His Excellency may take into his consideration the just expense I was unavoidably obliged to incurr and grant me something towards defraying this expense.

I also beg leave to state that I have received no command money for the post of Michiliackinac since the 24th of April in 12 and that I gave up the command to Captain Bullock of the 41st Regt. on the 14th of September last.1

1 Crossed in original.

The American Colours taken at Michilimakinac I have brought down with me and request His Excellency wishes in respect to them.

I have the honor to be Sir your obedt and humble Servant charles Roberts 2 Captain 10. V. B.

2 See appendix.

Noah Freer Esqr

Captain R. begs to know His Excy pleasure with respect to his destination.

[C 789-p 123.]

STATEMENT

(*Royal Veteran Battallion*)

Statement of Expenses incurred by Captain Roberts of the 10th R. V.

Battn in a journey from Michilimackinac to Montreal by the Grand River.

One Guide at 250 livres

One Steersman at 200 do.

Five men each 150 do 1200

£50 55

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One bark canoe 12-10

One sail for do 2-

Eight bushels cement 15s1

1 It would be interesting to know what use was made of such inordinate amounts of cement and grease, but Roberts does not explain.

6 —

Thirty Six Barrels Grease at 2s 3-12

£74-2

Charles Roberts Capt 10 R. V. B.

I certify that Captain Roberts was ordered to deliver over the command of the Garrison of Michilimackinac & return to the Lower Province

Edw. Baynes

I certify upon the word & honor of an officer that the above mentioned prices were actually and Bona fide paid by me and that I could not procure my passage at a lower rate.

Charles Roberts Captain R. V. B

[C 789-p 122.]

CAPTAIN ROBERTS TO SECRETARY FREER

(*Royal Veteran Battallion*)

Dillions Hotel Montreal 2 November 1813

Sir .

The officers of the staff, of the Indian Department, and of the Garrison, of Michilimakinac having been put to great expense in getting at their stores by the Grand River have through me most humbly to request that some allowance may be made to them in lieu of what is usually denominated Barrel Bulk.—

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient & humble Servant Charles Roberts captain 10 V. B.

Noah Freer Esq. &c.

[C 789-p 126.]

435

MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR TO MAJ. GEN. DE ROTTENBURG

(*War—1812*)

Barnhams Near Burlington November 3, 1813

Sir

Having seen the General order of the (no copy to be procured here) 18th October respecting my retreat and the unfortunate affair of the 5th of the same month; and also received an intimation of His Excellency's consequent intentions towards, me, I cannot but observe with deep sensations that the most unfavourable impressions of me as an officer have been received and from an individual who not long since was conceived unworthy of retaining that situation in its lowest Rank—a situation I have maintained unsullied for more than Two & Thirty years, and in that portion of it especially in which I have been entrusted with command, have received until the present instance, only commendation, Besides the order I had conceived it expedient to have issued on my approach to the

Centre Division, that no individual of the eight should proceed beyond Ancaster, I had no understanding that staff Adjutant Rieffienstein had declared his intention of not sleeping1 until he reached Head Qrs ordered that he should remain at the Grand River, until my arrival there. The enclosed copy of his answer will prove intentional Disobedience of orders and marked disrespect towards me, Obedience to this order would have prevented several occurrences to be regretted as well as unfounded alarms which the Flippancy of the Individual in question had excited by way of giving Consequence to his Reports, he had passed himself as a relation to a General Officer at Kingston, to whom he was carrying intelligence. I feel myself much hurt by the remarks which were communicated in your letter to Major Genl Vincent; and however keenly I may feel and regret being so situated having always conceived the necessity of a serious Investigation into his conduct to be the greatest misfortune to wh an officer of pure intentions was liable—I conceive it a duty I owe to myself rather to seek an Investigation than otherwise—

1 Rieffenstein delayed not at Delaware but hurried on, unconscious that the bearer of bad news is proverbially unwelcome; may repent at leisure on his precipitancy. Ancaster is 90 miles from Delaware.

I have &c (Signed) Henry Proctor major General

Major Genl de Rottenburg &c &c &c Kingston

[C 680-p. 290]

436

GENERAL HARRISON1 TO MAJ. GEN. VINCENT

1 See appendix.

(*War—1812*)

Head Quarters For George 1 3d Nov. 1813

Sir

Lieutenant Le Briton, an officer of your service, arrived at Detroit on the 15th Ulto. bearing a flag and a letter to me from Genl. Proctor, requesting humane treatment for the prisoners in my possession and the restoration of private property and papers. This letter was directed to me at the Moravian Town and as the subject was not of the importance to authorise the Lieutenant, pursuing me to Detroit, I was somewhat surprised at his doing so. It did not appear to me proper to permit him to return in that way as I was upon the point of setting out for this frontier by water. I conceived that that mode of conveyance would be full as agreable to him and would enable him to meet Genl Proctor as expeditiously as by the land route—I regret that the badness of the weather and other causes, which he will explain, has detained him until this time.

Understanding that you are the senior officer, I have determined to address my answer to you—with respect to the subject of General Proctor's letter—those which I have the honor to enclose you from the British Officers, who were taken on the 5th Ultimo, to their friends, and the report of Lt. Le Briton; will satisfy you, that no indulgence which humanity could claim in their favor or the usuages of War sanction, has been withheld. The disposition of the property taken on the field of action or near it, was left to the Commanding Officer at Detroit—The instructions given to this gentleman and the well known integrity and generosity of his character will ensure to the claimants, the utmost Justice and liberality in his decisions. In making this statement I wish it however, to be distinctly understood, that my conduct with regard to the prisoners and the property taken, has been dictated solely by the motives of humanity, and not by a belief that it could be claimed upon the score of reciprocity of treatment towards the American prisoners who have fallen into the hands of General Proctor. The unhappy persons of this description who have escaped from the tomahawks of the Savages in the employment of the British Government, who fought under the immediate orders of that officer, have suffered all the indignities and

deprivations which Human Nature is capable of supporting. There is no single instance that I have heard of in which the property of the officers has been respected. I am far from believing that the conduct of General Proctor has been thought an example, worthy of imitation by the greater part of the British Officers and in the character of 437 General Vincent I have a pledge that he will unite his exertions with mine to soften as much as possible the fate, of those, whom the fortunes of war may reciprocally place in our power.

But, Sir, there is another subject upon which, I wish an explicit declaration—will the Indians who still adhere to the cause of His Britannic Majesty be suffered to continue that horrible species of warfare which they have heretofore practised against our troops and those still more horrible depredations upon the peaceable inhabitants of our frontiers? I have sufficient evidence to show that even the latter have not always been perpetrated by small parties of vagrant Indians acting at a distance from the British Army; some of the most atrocious instances having occurred under the eyes of the British Commander and the Head of the Indian Department. I shall pass by the tragedy of the river Raisin and that equally well known, which was acted on the Miami river after the defeat of Col. Dudley, and select three other instances of savage barbarity committed under the auspices of General Proctor.

In the beginning of June a small party of Indians, conducted by an Ottawa chief, who I believe is now with the British Army under your command, left Malden in bark canoes, in which they coasted Lake Erie, to the mouth of Portage River, the canoes were taken across the portage to the Sandusky bay, over which the party proceeded to the mouth of Cold Creek and from thence by land to the settlements upon that river, where they captured three families, consisting of one man and twelve women and children. After taking the prisoners some distance, one of the women was discovered to be unable to keep up with them, in consequence of her advanced state of pregnancy. She was immediately tomahawked, stripped naked, her womb ripped open and the child taken out; three or four of the children were successively butchered as they discovered their inability to keep up with the party. Upon the arrival of the Indians at Malden two or three of the

prisoners were ransomed by Col. Elliott and the others by the citizens of Detroit, where they remained until taken off by their friends upon the recovery of that place by our army. I have been informed the Savage Chief received from Col. Elliott, *a reprimand for his cruelty* .1

1 This is handsomely said by Gen. Harrison—a man as chivalrous as he was brave.

On the 29th or 30th of the same month, a large party of Indians were sent from Malden on a war expedition to Lower Sandusky—On a farm near that place they murdered the whole family, consisting of a man, his wife, son and daughter.

During the last attack upon Fort Meigs by Genl. Proctor, a party headed by a Seneca, an intimate friend of Tecumseh's was sent to endeavour to 438 detach from our interests the Shawanese of Wapockanata. In their way thither, they murdered several men and one woman who was working in her cornfield.

I have selected, Sir, the above from a long list of similar instances of barbarity which the history of the last 15 months could furnish, because they were perpetrated, if not in the view of the British commander by parties, who came immediately from his camp and returned to it, who even received their daily support from the King's Stores and who in fact (as the documents in my possession show) formed part of his army. To retaliate then upon the Subjects of the King would have been justifiable by the laws of War and by the usages of the most civilized Nations. To do so has been amply in my power. The tide of fortune has changed in our favor and an extensive and flourishing province opened to our Arms. Nor have instruments of Vengance been wanting. The Savages, who sued to us for mercy would gladly have shown their claim to it, by reacting upon the Thames, the bloody scenes of Sandusky and Cold Creek.1 A single sign of approbation would have been sufficient to pour upon the subjects of the King, their whole fury. The future conduct of the British officer will determine the correctness of mine, in withholding it. If the Savages should be again let loose upon our settlements, I shall with Justice be accused of having sacrificed

the interests & honor of my country and the lives of my fellow citizens, to feelings of false and mistaken humanity. You are a soldier Sir—and as I sincerely believe possess all those honorable sentiments which ought always to be found in men who follow the profession of Arms. Use then I pray you, your authority and influence to stop that dreadful effusion of innocent blood, which proceeds from the employment of those Savage Monsters, whose aid (as must now be discovered) is so little to be depended upon, when it is most wanted, and which can have so trifling an effect upon the issue of the war. The effect of their barbarity will not be confined to the present generation. Ages yet to come will feel the effects of the deep rooted hatred and enmity which they must produce between the two Nations. I deprecate most sincerely the dreadful alternative which will be offered to me, should they be continued, but I do solemnly declare that if the Indians, that remain under the influence of the British Government are suffered to commit any depredations upon the citizens within the Districts that is confided to my protection, I shall remove the restrictions which have hitherto been imposed upon those who have offered their services to U. States and direct them to carry on the War in their own way. I have never heard a single excuse for the employment of the Savages by

1 This manly and noble appeal by Gen. Harrison was effective and thereafter the “bloody scenes” which he stigmatizes no longer characterized the war.

439 your government unless we can credit the story of some British officer, having dared to assert that “as we employed the Kentuckians, you had a right to make use of the Indians.” If such injurious statements have really prevailed to the prejudice of a brave, well informed and virtuous people, it will be removed by the representations of your officers, who were lately taken upon the river Thames.1 They will inform you, Sir, that so far from offering any violence to the persons of their prisoners these “ *Savages* ” would not permit a word to escape them, which was calculated to would or insult their feelings—this too with the sufferings of their friends and relatives at the river raisin and Miami fast upon their recollection.

1 See appendix.

I have the honor to be Sir Your very Humble Servt William Henry Harrison

Major Genl. commanding the N. Western Army of the United States.

P. S. I pledge myself for the truth of the above statement, in relation to the murders, committed by the Indians.

W. H. H.

To Maj. Gen. Vincent Commg. the British Forces at Burlington Heights.

[C 691-p 76.]

MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR TO SECRETARY FREER

(*Command Money*)

Burlington November 5th 1813

Sir

Not having received any command money for the time subsequent to my having assumed the command at Amherstburg or Detroit: or indeed for a Time prior whilst in command at the Post of Fort George: nor any Pay whatever as a Staff Officer, I take the Liberty of requesting that the same may be taken into consideration and that some Payment may be ordered accordingly. I arrived at Amherstburg on the 26th of July 1812, and Detroit you know was taken on the 16th of August 1812.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient humble Servant Henry Proctor Major General

Noah Freer Esqr Military Secrety Montreal

[C 102-p 126.]

440

MAJ. GEN. DE ROTTENBURG TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston 5 November 1813

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's letter of the 31st of October; the instructions therein contained, have been communicated to Major General Vincent.

The last despatch I received from the Major General is in reply to the Adjutant General's order of the 16th of October, and he was then making preparations for moving his stores from Burlington to York; but the difficulties he must experience in effecting this task, will, I trust, have detained him long enough to receive the orders for maintaining the position of Burlington with the Light Corps and the Indians.

Several Gentlemen from Amherstburg have followed Major General Proctor's retreating Army, and remain destitute of all means of subsistence—They receive rations—but I have to request Your Excellency will be pleased to fix an allowance to be granted to these unfortunate and loyal subjects.

The Militia officers who have followed the army, I have ordered should receive the pay of their respective ranks.

The Enemy's fleet is now off the Eastern point of Long Island,1 and the whole of our fleet move down this morning to take a position on the western side of the Island, for the purpose of being at hand to fall upon the flotilla whenever they shall attempt to cross over — I expect this will be the case in the course of the day, as the weather is remarkably fine and moderate.

1 See appendix.

I have the honor to be most respectfully Your Excellency's Most obedient & humble servant Francis de Rottenburg M. General

His Excellency The Commander of the Forces &c &c &c

[C 681.]

441

MAJ. GEN. DE ROTTENBURG TO MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR

(*War—1812*)

Kingston 8th Novemr 1813

Sir

I am directed by the Comr of the Forces to call upon you for a more concise and at the same time a more distinct narrative of the operations of the Right Division until its arrival at the Moravian Town, the disposition made of the Troops the Conduct of the principal officers in the Action and the Arrangements made by you after the Action was over, for Collecting Your Dispersed Force and retiring to Ancaster. You should also state the co-operation—established with the Indian Warriors previous to the attack made on Your division, whether in the course of the action they executed their part faithfully and

couragiously and to what extent they covered your retreat and enabled you to collect your scattered Force.

The Comr of the Forces is also desirous to be informed what precautionary measures you took, previous to the Retreat; and if the conduct of the officers of the Right Division in the affair of the 5th October—You should also state who commanded the Gun which so disgracefully fell into the Enemy's hands, without firing a shot and where the officer of Artillery was, at that Critical moment, You will also report if one Iota of private Baggage was saved whilst the Provisions and Ammunition were allowed to fall into the Enemy's hands.

It is also desired that you should state what precautionary measures you took respecting Michilimackinac, or of the communication made to the officer in command at that Post previous to the evacuation of Sandwich. I agree with you that the Conduct of Staff Adjutant Reifflenstein has been most infamous and it has been represented as such to the Commander of the Forces—As to his representing himself as related to a General Officer at Kingston, he is no way connected with Majr Genl Darroch1 or myself, I am at a loss to imagine what he means by it

1 See appendix.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Mo obedt humble servt (Sgnd) Francis de Rottenburg majr Genl

A true Copy (Sgd) John Hall Capt & Major of Brigade To Major Genl Proctor &c

[C 680-p 293.]

442

LIEUT. COL. BOUCHETTE TO SECRETARY FREER

(*War—1812*)

River Aux Raisin 1 12th Novem. 1813 at 6 o'clock A. M.

1 See appendix.

Sir

Capt Cochrane having by this time informed His Excy. of the state and movements of the Enemy as well as that which respects our Forces in Front and Rear, I feel satisfied on that head. I will therefore confine myself at this moment in simply reporting to you for His Excellency's Information, that I set out at 2 o'clock yesterday morning from McMartin's Mills where our small Army had retreated in the night & where I left Capt. Cochrane with Lt. Cols Denis McLean & McMillen. that place is 13 miles of Cornwall—in the 6th Concessn—went to St. Andrew's Church, 7 miles from Cornwall and met with a detachment of Militia commanded by Capt Sheeth & also a few Indians with Lt. LeClair. there I was informed that it was not possible for me to reach Cornwall or Cahone House 3 miles below that place in that evening. every possible danger of being taken prisoner by the Enemy—upon what Capt Sheeth told me, I decided to return to McMartins. In the morning I had still a desire to reach the front in consequence went down thro' the woods —towards Cahone's House—where I expected to obtain much information—instead of which at 1 o'clock P. M. having reached within a mile of his house—still in the woods—I was prevented from going further by the noise and firing of the advanced Picquet of the Enemy & scouting parties which were quite near us & I believe at Cahone's House. Met with Indians who were quickly running to the Interior & who told me that the Enemy were at Cahone's which place they had just left, then I was obliged to retrace my steps with great reluctance & sometimes on horse back & sometimes a foot. I reached the mouth of this river in the hopes of meeting Lt. LeClair & some Indians—that were to have met me at that place—but I find they could not get to Cahone's. I find the Information I obtained by the Indians was correct—by what Mr. McKay told me—a man who lives four miles

lower than the Cahone's—he is like all others making the best of his way to Coteau du Lac—being disappointed in meeting the Indians to carry me across to the South side & finding not a soul here but a few women lamenting the absence of their husbands—I resolved on walking to Pointe au Beaudet & there endeavour to get over the Lake. I apprehend it will not be in my power to go to St. Regis owing to existing circumstances, the Enemy having reached Cornwall have most likely opened a communication to that place, as there is nothing to interrupt them. I shall 443 proceed down by Beauharnois1 & will acquire all possible information respecting the Enemy, but I am truly sorry that from these circumstances I cannot render my mission either so successful or satisfactory to His Excellency as I could have wished—

1 South shore of the St. Lawrence, twenty miles from Montreal.

At 2 o'clock yesterday—Lt. Col. Denis and his small Army were at Mr. McDonnel's Church—in the Rear Road—retreating to Coteau du Lac—No appearance of the Enemy here as yet. I am rather in haste & have written this letter with a very bad pen which I got in a small cottage here—therefore do me the favor to apologize both for the writing and style of this letter.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedt & humble Servt Jos. Bouchette Lt. Col—

To Noah Freer Esq

[C 681-p 70.]

MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR TO MAJ. GEN. DE ROTTENBURG

(*War—1812*)

Burlington November 16th 1813

Sir

I have the honor to send you extracts of Letters which I have just received from Capt Bullock 41st Regt who relieved Captain Roberts of the 10th R. V. Battalion in the Command of the Post of Michilimackinac. Captain Roberts I suppose has arrived at Montreal having left Michilimackinac on the 1st ulto. You will perceive that Mr. R. Dickson had arrived at Mackinac on the 22d Ulto: having been 28 Days on his Passage. The Navy would have been a valuable Prize to the Enemy, I do not believe that any attempt has or will be made this Fall on Mackinac, with Provisions and some addition to the Defenses of Place such as a Blockhouse on the Ground which Commands the Fort, I should conceive that important Post secure; but to this Point Captain Roberts can speak better than I can

I have the honor to be sir Your obedient humble servant Henry Proctor Major General

A birch Canoe was on the Point of setting off for Mackinac when the vessels of the Enemy appeared off the mouth of the Thames.

Heny Proctor M. Genl.

Major General de Rottenburg Kingston

[C 681-p 116.]

MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR TO MAJ. GEN. DE ROTTENBURG

(*War—1812*)

Burlington November 16th 1813

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter of the eighth Inst; and shall endeavour to comply with what is required, I regret that I should not have been able to

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make myself understood or that in endeavouring to be clear I should have been diffuse. I did not fail to give to the Post of Michilimackinac a due Portion of my attention. Had it been otherwise in my Power I could not have sent troops there, least I might thereby have increased the want of Provisions. Repeated communications was made to the officer in Command there of the Loss of the Fleet, and of the Intended Retreat to the Thames which had in consequence become requisite, with assurance also that the sending of Pork especially by the way of Mashedash should be strongly urged. For a detail of the precautionary measure to rid my Force of every Incumbrance ere the Retreat from Sandwich to Dover on the Thames, I beg leave to refer to my former Letters being unable to give a clearer account than what has already been furnished. I have mentioned my Determination to have made a stand in the first Instance at Dover. A measure which was necessary for the Protection of the Craft, naval and ordnance stores &c brought from Amherstburg, and placed as high up the River as the navigation would then admit of. During a second attempt to reconnoitre the country in my Rear, the Troops were on the approach of the Enemy moved from Dover to the Forks, a measure that early the next morning caused a Determination in the Indian Body to commence an immediate Retreat to the Moravian Town, and which I found on my arrival was carried into effect, and the requisite Disposition made by Lt Colonel Warburton. These unfortunate circumstances left no option but the immediate sinking and Destruction of the vessels and stores that would not be brought off from the want of Time and Transport. I trust it is unnecessary to 445 repeat the capture of the Boats with the stores & men therein. I most firmly believe that no article whatever of private Baggage of any Individual attached to the army was saved, at the expense of, or whilst the Provisions and ammunition fell into the hands of the Enemy. As already stated Finding that the Enemy approached too near I determined to meet and give him Battle in a wood below the Moravian Town, as he was in considerable Force, and particularly strong in Mounted Infantry and Cavalry. The position I had taken I also conceived to be favourable, as it reduced the Enemy to a small front and secured my Flanks my Right being on an impenetrable swamp,1 and my Left on the River. The 41st Regiment occupied the space between the River, and the Indians who were on their

right, with their Right thrown up. The troops had a reserve and marksmen near the six Pounder on the Road, for its further security. It was under the Direction of Lieut Gardner of the 41st Regt who on a former occasion had been found very useful when attached to the artillery. The gun when taken was loaded with canister and a sphente case shot, laid, and the Port fire light, A plan of coöperation was cordially established with the Indians, who were to turn the left of the Enemy, whilst the Troops should resist the Right. The Indians did turn the left of the Enemy and executed their part faithfully and courageously. If the troops had acted as I have ever seen them, and as I confidently expected, I am still of opinion notwithstanding their numerical superiority the Enemy would have been beaten, all ranks of Officers exerted themselves to rally the men tho: ineffectual. Tho' retreating was the furthest from my thoughts I had caused as far as Time & Circumstances would admit every Impediment to a Retreat to be removed, and had also placed the Field ordnance under the orders of Lieut Thornton of the Royal Artillery, so as to defend an important Point by which the Indians had retreated to us, and also to cover the Retreat of the Troops, whilst order was retained by them. The Indians, after the troops were broken, retired through the woods; and brought with them those who escaped in that Direction. on the evening of the 5th of October Provision was made for the feeding of the Indians and Troops who should arrive at Delaware; the commissariat were also stationed on the Route to Ancaster for the same Purpose, as well as parties of Dragoons to aid and assist those who had effected their retreat on their way to Ancaster. I proceeded to the Grand River; and endeavoured to prevent Individuals proceeding who might create false alarms; and immediately communicated with the officers in command

1 See appendix.

446 at Long Point, Burlington, and with Major General Vincent comdg the Centre Division.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient humble servant Henry Proctor Major General

Maj. Genl. De Rottenburg Kingston

[C 681-p 118.]

CERTIFICATE

I Do Certify that the schooner Ellen1 fifty-nine Tons Burthen the property of Richd Pattinson Esq, was taken into the Public service as a Transport about the fifteenth of June last and was burnt at the River Thames by my orders on the third of october together with her rigging, Sails and Stores, to prevent her falling in the hands of the Enemy. And that she was valued by him at Five Hundred Pounds Province Currency.

1 In 1906 President Clarence M. Burton of the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society discovered the hulk of this vessel in the Thames and purchased it. But up to the present time he has been refused permission to remove it.

Having signed duplicate Receipts Burlington Heights 22d Nov. 1813.

(Signed) Henry Proctor Major Genl.

[C 257-p 197.]

MAJ. GEN. DE ROTTENBURG TO COLONEL BAYNES

Kingston November 26th, 1813

Sir

Mr. Commissary Crookshank has been written to, to devise means for conveying money to Michilimackinac but as there is very little prospect of effecting it from York, at this late season of the year, I am of opinion that it may be done with greater facility by means of the North west Company from Montreal.

Francis de Rottenburg M. General

Coloner Baynes &. &c.

[C 618-p 109.]

447

STATEMENT

Averaged statement of Provisions remaining in Store at Michilimackinac & Dependencies on the 24th of November 1813 & of what can be furnished by the Inhabitants during the winter .

Provisions Flour Beef & Pork Pease Corn Grease Fish Salt lbs. lbs. Bushels Bushels lbs. Barrels lbs. Remaining in Store on the 24th November 14,430 4,050 54 400 673 2 1,522 To be furnished by the Inhabitants 1,600 1,200 15 600 9 Total 16,030 5,250 70 1,000 673 11 1,522

Michilimackinac 24th November 1813

Wm Bailey Comst S. K. in chgre

[C 681-p 175.]

THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Horse Guards , 2nd Decr. 1813.

Sir

I am to acknowledge the receipt of your Dispatches of the 23d. Sept & 9th October last, stating the result of the action that had taken place between our Fleet and that of the Enemy on Lake Erie and reporting the Disposition of the Force under Major General Proctor in consequence of that unfortunate event, and also that you had found it necessary

from the movements of the Enemy and the extent of their preparations to remove your Head Quarters to Montreal in order to counteract any Attempt they might make on that Frontier.1

1 See appendix.

I am Sir Yours Frederick Commander in Chief

Lt. Genl. Sir Geo. Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 681-p 187.]

448

EARL BATHURST TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Downing Street 3d Decr 1813

Sir

I have received and laid before the Prince Regent your Dispatches to No. 90 inclusive—

Altho' the events of the last Campaign have not corresponded with the wishes & expectations which had been entertained at its commencement, yet His Royal Highness sees no reason to impute the failures which have occurred to any want of exertion on your part or on the part of the officers or Troops under your command—

In the arduous duties of your situation I cannot but regret that anything should have been omitted on the part of His Majesty's Government which could have contributed to your Gratification and Relief but I confess that until I received your last Dispatches I had not anticipated that the receipt of Special Instructions from Home for the conduct of the campaign could have been considered by you in that light. His Majesty's Government have

indeed declined giving you such instructions because it appeared to them impossible in any case to direct with advantage military operations in so distant a quarter and because the peculiar circumstances of the Canadas, their imperfect cultivation, their immense Frontier & the consequent uncertainty as to the point which may be selected for attack materially increasing the difficulties of giving such Instructions from Home. His Majesty's Government also felt that to present to you a specific plan of Campaign, framed as it must have been upon intelligence received from the Province and which could not have been acted upon until many months after the circumstances upon which it might have been founded had occurred, was a measure calculated only to add to your embarrassments, and to fetter your judgment without diminishing your responsibility. It was therefore in every point of view considered more expedient to place at your disposal such means of defence as the Exigency of the Service required, & to leave their direction or distribution to your own direction; more especially as to the correct view which you expressed on the two points most essential to the Defence of the Canadas, the maintenance of a naval superiority on the Lakes & the uninterrupted communication with our Indian allies, had at an early period received the sanction of His Majesty's Government and had been repeatedly recalled to your attention during the course of the preceding campaign.

I am perfectly aware that the Superiority which the Enemy have acquired on Lake Erie, the power which they may there derive of interrupting your communication may impose upon you the necessity of abandoning for a 449 time the more distant parts of the Upper Province and may thus obstruct your intercourse with the Indians—and altho the fidelity of those Nations has hitherto been proof against the insiduous attempts of the Enemy, yet I see too much reason to fear that unless the communication is restored they will be compelled to renounce their alliance with this Country. The primary object of your Exertions therefore will be to open an intercourse with them. His Majesty's Government see but two modes by which this object can be effected, either by establishing a new channel of communication thro' Lake Huron independent of the other Lake—If the American flotilla should during the winter be laid up in any Port where its Destruction

might be successfully attempted I am sure you will not hesitate to avail yourself of this advantage, if not, the practicability of regaining the command on Lake Erie will depend upon your being able to maintain yourself in such force on its shore as to protect the formation of a new flotilla—In the event however of your inability to maintain such a Position, or of your determining for other reasons to abandon it, the only alternative will be the formation of a naval Establishment on Lake Huron, which at the same time that it opens a free communication with our Indian Allies, may also have the effect of diverting the attention of the Enemy from the Shores of Lake Eric—From every information which I have been able to collect the Post of Machedash at the mouth of the Severn is peculiarly well calculated for a Naval Depot—It has been long used as a Port by the Persons trading with the Indian Nations—it has a good land and water communication with Kingston, and is less distant than the former Dock Yards at Amherstburg. It has moreover this advantage that nothing short of the most serious disaster could render it necessary to abandon it or its communication with Kingston.1

1 See appendix.

Upon a consideration of all these advantages His Majestys Government have determined to convey to you the necessary authority for erecting such Block Houses and other defences as may be required to secure the Post from attack or Insult—As soon as these shall be completed you will make every Exertion to build and fit out vessels calculated to meet those which the Enemy may transfer to the Lake. As the success of this measure depends much upon the rapidity of Execution I would recommend to your serious attention the advantage of laying down vessels at Quebec or Montreal which might afterwards be transported in frame to Machedash & set up there in a much shorter time than would have been required to build them—

But in attending to the creation of a naval force on Lake Huron you will not relax your Exertions for an increase of the existing Flotilla, on the 57 450 other Lakes. You must be well aware that on Lake Ontario more particularly the contest for Naval Superiority

will be to be renewed at the commencement of the ensuing Campaign and that its success will depend upon the Exertions which you may be able to make during the Winter for encreasing the number & efficiency of the fleet under Sir J. Yeo—You will therefore consider whether the measure of building ships in other places to be afterwards transported to the Lakes may not be advantageously applied to the augmentation of the fleet on Lake Ontario, and whether you may not thus be enabled to counteract the advantage which the Enemy have derived from the abundance & vicinity of their naval Resources to which the unfortunate protraction of the contest for Superiority has been so mainly owing.

In addition to the means which have been already placed at your disposal His Majesty's Government have determined to forward to you by the first Fleet in the Spring two Frigates in frame with the necessary supplies of stores & cordage for their Equipment—With a view to accelarate their arrival on Lake Ontario they will be shipped on board vessels of such a draught of water as to admit of their proceeding with their cargoes direct to Montreal. On your part it will be necessary to make timely preparations for their transport by Land at those rapid parts of the Saint Lawrence which preclude the passage of Batteaux—and for supplying them with masts & yards.

I am perfectly sensible that an early decision of this contest (if it had been favorable) would have relieved you from much anxiety for the safety of the Canadas; but I am nevertheless unable to concur in that feeling of disappointment which you have indulged at its being deferred. The fatal consequence of an engagement brought on hastily or under disadvantageous circumstances has been too recently experienced on Lake Erie to be overlooked or forgotten. If it had been possible for Capt. Barclay to have declined the action,1 which, notwithstanding his valour and exertions, terminated so fatally. The Military Operations of the Enemy would still have been confined to their own territory, and there is little reason to doubt that the British Superiority on Lake Erie would have been established at no distant period. With this Example therefore before me, I cannot but approve the discretion of Sir James Yeo in not—an action unless under circumstances

which would afford a fair prospect of a successful issue The Preservation of the Fleet under his command is (next to the destruction of that of the Enemy) the object most essential for the security of Canada; So long as it remains entire the Enemy are precluded from attempting with any hopes of success the attack for which their means are preparing & their Troops collecting,—of the number of the Enemy's force, tho' considerably

1 See appendix.

451 encreased I confess that I feel but little apprehension when I consider the number and composition of the force by which they will be opposed. It is, as you observe, not sufficient to observe the idea of moving armies in concert from different quarters to act simultaneously on a given point, and I cannot but hope that previously to the execution of the project an opportunity may yet be afforded you of separately attacking one of these armies, before it can be supported, and thus either repairing the failure of this Campaign or of opening the next with vigor and success.

I have the honour to be Sir Your most obedient Humble Servant Bathurst .

To Lt. Gen. Sir George Prevost &c. &c. &

[C 681-p 197.]

MR. PATTINSON TO MAJ. GEN. VINCENT

Dundas 7th Dec 1813

Sir

Herewith I beg leave to enclose copy of a certificate signed in duplicate by Major General Proctor, by which it appears the schooner Ellen of fifty nine Tons burthen, my Property was taken into the Public Service as a Transport at Amherstburg about the fifteenth of June last and was so continued until the third of October when she was burnt at the River Thames to prevent her falling into the Hands of the Enemy (by order of Major General

Proctor)— That she was valued by me at Five Hundred Pounds when taken into the Service; for which amount together with reasonable allowance for the use of her from said 15th June to 3d October following compensation is now claimed by me from government. I trust this matter will meet your early attention, and as the justice of the claim is evident you will see it right to order immediate payment.

I have the honor to be respectfully Sir Your most obedt humble Servant Rd Pattinson

Maj. Genl. Vincent &c &c &c

[C 257-p 196.]

452

MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR TO LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND

(*War—1812*)

York December 14th 1813—

Sir ,

Having by a Communication from Major General de Rottenburg been given to understand that since my reverse of Fortune, an Investigation of my Conduct was intended; and which in my Letter of the 3d Ulto. to Maj. Genl. de Rottenburg I respectfully sought; I have tho' under much Distress of Mind, confidently waited the pleasure of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces; especially as I had been called upon in a Letter from Maj. Genl. de Rottenburg of the 8th Ulto. for a more concise and distinct Narrative than what I had furnished of the Operations of the Forces under my Command from the 27th of September, the day on which the Retreat from Sandwich commenced to my joining the Centre Division—But as the General Order of the 24th Ulto. published prior to the Receipt of the required Narrative dated the 16th Ulto. I humbly conceive conveys a most severe censure, I have therefore most earnestly to request that in Justice to my wounded Feelings

you will be pleased to submit to His Excellency the Commander of the Forces my anxious and just Desire of having my Conduct speedily and publickly investigated, in such manner as His Excellency shall be pleased to approve.

I have the honour to be Sir With respect Your faithful & Obedient Servant Henry Proctor Major General

Lt. General Drummond &c &c &c

[C 681-p 291.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

St. Davids ,1 December 18th, 1813.

1 St. Davids, on the Canada side of Niagara river. Three miles west of Queenston.

Sir

I have the honour to report to Your Excellency my arrival here on the 16th and to acknowledge the receipt this day of Your Excellency's letter of the 10th Instant.

I am concerned to say, that my opinion relative to the exaggerated 453 accounts of the disasters, which were reported to have befallen Commodore Chauncey's Squadron has proved but too just, the Madison only having sustained some damage by being ashore for 48 hours. But she is now, as well as the other vessels of the Enemy's Fleet, in safety at Sackett's Harbour. I have directed Major General Vincent to proceed to Kingston, without delay, he having been this day relieved in the command of the Right Division by Major Genl. Riall. But as the Major General is extremely anxious to avail himself of

Your Excellency's Indulgence already granted, I have, in consequence, to request Your Excellency will permit Major General Stovin1 to leave Montreal as soon as convenient.

1 Maj. Gen. Hugh Stovin was subsequently given command of the right division, but was not noticeably active in any way.

I propose that Major General Proctor should remain in command at York (it being a Post of little importance at present) until Your Excellency's pleasure is known.

On the arrival of the Marines at Prescott, Quere, may not the entire Battalion be drawn from thence to Kingston, and their place supplied by the Wing of the Glengarry Regiment, in consideration of their great ability at Point Frederick in controlling the conduct of the seaman and as it will in some degree meet Your Excellency's wishes relative to the Glengarry Corps moving toward the Lower Province.

I have forwarded Your Excellency's letter to Capt. Norton.

The evacuation of this Frontier will now afford ample means to the Commissariat Dept—in the supply of Provisions & Forage to the Troops of this Division.

Conceiving the present a favourable opportunity for making an attack on the Enemy's Fort Niagara; I have placed a force under the command of Colonel Murray, Inspecting Field Officer for that purpose. I had intended that the Troops should have crossed the River last night—But the Batteaux which were ordered from Burlington to the Four Mile Creek, having been in the first instance, considerably impeded in their progress by a gale of wind upon the Lake and afterwards notwithstanding the unremitting exertions of Capt Elliott, Assistant Deputy Quarter Master General, in landing them, by a very heavy surf, & thence by a tedious land conveyance on slays to the place selected for the embarkation of the Troops at Two Mile Run, it became too late to carry the design into execution at that time —This night however I propose that they shall be crossed over and the Fort attempted by assault—Major General Riall will follow immediately, with the Reserves & the Indians

(under Col. Elliot) to act in support of Colonel Murray, as circumstances may demand —Independant of which I propose that an attack shall be made upon Lewiston for the purpose of destroying some works 454 which the Enemy have been throwing up at that place, with the avowed intention of destroying from thence the Town of Queenston—In both these attempts I have sanguine hopes of success.

I have seen a Mr Muirhead who has this day arrived from Buffalo—He had with the principal part of the respectable Inhabitants of this part of the Country been carried off, tho' not in arms, by the Enemy, some time since—He reports that the Enemy is in great apprehension of an attack, and they are in consequence sending to the interior all their effects and endeavouring to collect the Militia, and Indians from all directions—The Caledonia is lying in the River, opposite to the stores at Black Rock; said to have but one Gun on board; and in otherwise, an indifferent state of equipment. Four or five other vessels are said to be ashore between Buffalo and Presqu'Isle.

General McClure was at Buffalo—Colonel Wilcox had gone to Washington.

I have directed a letter to be written to General McClure, calling upon him to state unequivocally, whether the atrocious act of the burning of the Town of Fort George1 had been authorized by his Government; or whether it was the unauthorized act of an individual—

1 See appendix.

Captain Barclay, Royal Navy is at Queenston; and, I am happy to say, his wound is mending daily—

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellency's most obedient humble servant Gordon Drummond lt. General

His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

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[C 681-9 240.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Fort Niagara 19th Decr 1813 half past 5 o'clock A. M.

Dear Sir ,

I have the satisfaction to inform you that the Fort of Niagara fell into our hands at 5 o'clock this morning. It was carried in a most gallant manner 455 by assault at the point of the Bayonet by the Troops, as per margin,1 I had selected and placed under the command of Colonel Murray.2 The Enemy have suffered some loss in killed; that on our part is comparatively small. There have been taken about 150 prisoners, amongst whom is Capt. Leonard, the commandant and several officers. I regret to say that Lt. Nolan of the 100th Regt. has been killed, and that Colonel Murray has been wounded severely in the wrist.

1 Grenadier Coy. Royal Scots Regt 100

Flank Companies 41st— 100

100th Regt 350

Royal Artillery 12

2 See appendix

There are several pieces of ordnance mounted in the Fort, and about 3000 stack of arms, a large quantity of clothing salt and other stores.

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It is satisfactory to remark that the capture of this place has been the means of relieving from confinement 5 or 6 respectable inhabitants of the Niagara District who had been shamefully dragged from their families, and a few Indians.

I have not time to enter further into detail as I am proceeding towards Lewiston, to which place Maj. Genl. Riall with the remainder of the troops, and the whole of the Western Indians is advancing.

I will transmit to Your Excellency an official account of this affair as soon as I receive Colonel Murray's Report—

I have the honor to be Dear Sir Your faithful Humble Servant Gordon Drummond M. Genl.

His Excellency Sir Geo. Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 681-p 244.]

MR. DOUGLAS TO EARL BATHURST

(*Provincial Marine*)

High Wycombe 20th Decm 1813

My Lord

A long residence in Canada, and a knowledge of my Fathers Services in that country, lead me, on referring to the speech of the President of the United States, to the liberty I take of obtruding an observation to Your Lordship on the extraordinary measures it is necessary to take to defeat the attempts which will be made by the American Government to gain a Naval superiority on the Lakes of Upper Canada.

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Your Lordship is well aware what effect an ascendency gained over us there would be produce on the safety of Upper Canada, as well as the facilities it would give to prepare from that quarter, a combined attack on the Lower settlements, nor will it have escaped Your Lordships observation, that so long as Fort Niagara is in Possession of the Enemy, the Entrance to Niagara River is commanded, together with the power of destroying the Town of Newark, and of Cannonading Fort George. If the capture of that Post (an Enterprize which will require considerable means to accomplish & *retain*) cannot be looked to, the communication with Lake Erie by Queenstown Fort Chippewa and Fort Erie for the transport of Stores, must be abandoned, & a new line opened by the River La Tranche1 (or Thames) which becoming considerable not far distant from the Head of Lake Ontario falls into a small Lake (St. Clair) between Erie and Huron. The land carriage on this line would it is true be considerable but the River once gained an excellent communication would be possessed, which is extremely convenient for the Establishment of a Depot on Lake St. Clair, or as a Naval Arsenal either for Lake Erie or Lake Huron—But in either case the possession of the Upper, and the protection of the Lower Province depend upon our maintaining decided superiority on Lake Ontario which I conceive is in some danger of being lost unless extraordinary measures be resorted to without delay to rescue it.

1 Called by the French “La Riviere au Tranche” the river with the cut. The channel banks are clean and steep in the deep water parts—which explains the reason for the name. Now known as the Thames.

The Vessels by which we maintained a superiority on Lake Champlain in 1776 are prepared in England. The frames &c being sent out in the squadron which my Father commanded. The Pieces were sent up the Rapids in Batteaux, and were put together & the Vessels launched in an astonishingly short time on the Lake.

By resorting to such means our command of Lake Ontario may be ensured—The Frames may be made here during the winter, whilst the masts, spars, Planks, & Slips may be

prepared in Canada, Vessels with the Frames & such other parts & Stores as are sent from England, may arrive at Quebec by the 10th or 12th of May, & their contents reach Lake Ontario by the 1st of June. Thus by the Month of August such a Plan might create a sufficient Force to hold the command of the Lower Lake.

The Provincial Marine should be put upon a better Establishment, and encouragement held out to entice the voluntary service of regularly bred Naval Officers

I have &c (Signed) Howard Douglas

Earl Bathurst &c &c &c

[C 729-p 16.]

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LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(War—1812)

(*Confidential* .)

St Davids 22 December 1813

Sir

I have desired Colonel Elliot to send off an Express to Michilimackinac to announce our success in this quarter1 —and at the same time to assure the Indians that we shall shortly revisit them In Power .

1 See appendix.

Recent information from the neighbourhood of Detroit represents the Enemy's Force in that Country as not exceeding 500 Militia—The Indians there remain true to our interests

—they are in want of powder which I have invited them to come to us for—I am convinced that Detroit and the whole of the Western Country might be reoccupied by us at any moment without difficulty provided we had it in our power to detach a force for that purpose —by this movement Mackinac would be preserved to us—The present is the season most favourable for such an enterprize as it affords the greatest facility for transport— It must be recollected however that *Troops* alone (even if I had them) are not sufficient for the purpose. The corps—however small, should be completely equipped with Field Train, Engineer & Artificers Commissariat, Barrack & every other Department—This measure appears to me to offer the only means of getting rid of the Western Indians who, when their presence here ceases to be useful, will be an intolerable burthen.—Before I close this subject, I beg to suggest that the corps to be sent on such a service, should be one which is completely effective & well appointed & which has not been harassed and disorganized as I am sorry to remark is very much the case with all those at present on this frontier—such a one for instance as the 13th Regiment, which, if it could be spared, it has occurred to me, might, in the event of my receiving such accounts from Sacketts Harbour of the Enemy's Force at that place as to hold out a rational hope of the success of an attempt upon that important Depot, be employed on that service (in conjunction with other troops) on its way upwards—It is unnecessary for me to call Your Excellency's attention to an object to which it has doubtless been unremittingly directed and which should it be attained, would in all probability go far towards putting an end to the War, as far as it relates to this Province, by depriving the Enemy of the means of continuing it. 58

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I have the honor to be &c Gordon Drummond M. General

His Excellency Sir George Prevost Commander of the Forces &c. &c. &c.

[C 681-p 276.]

LIEUT. MEDCALF TO LIEUT. COL. BOSTWICK

(*War—1812*)

Dover , 25th Decr. 1813.

Sir ,

Agreeably to orders received from Lieut Colonel Stewart, on the 5th Inst I proceeded with a party consisting of twelve Volunteers from this place & a Sergeant & 6 men of Capt Coleman's Provincial Dragoons, to the Westward for purpose of securing some Cattle which were reported to be at the Rondeau,1 on my arrival at Port Talbot I was joined by Lieut Rice2 & Ensign Wilson & seven of the Middlesex militia who had volunteered their services, with this party I immediately proceeded to the Rondeau not finding when I arrived there that the report as to the cattle was correct and understanding that a party of the Enemy had posted themselves for the purpose of collecting the resources of that part of the Country & compelling the Inhabitants to take an oath of neutrality. I determined instantly on crossing the Country and endeavour to surprise them, this I have the greatest satisfaction in informing you was completely effective without any loss on our part. The Enemy was posted at Mrs. McLear's about 15 miles from the mouth of the Thames consisting of three officers & thirty six men of the U. S. Infantry—After ascertaining their position and being joined on the River by Lieut McGregor & seven men we advanced in the night with all possible expedition and arrived at the place about an hour before day—the house was instantly surrounded & a discharge of musquetry from us into the house was the first Intelligence they had of our approach, they made but a feeble resistance & surrendered, five of them being wounded.

1 Harbor on Lake Erie near Point aux Pins, and present town of Blenheim.

2 Moses Rice and Benj. Wilson of Middlesex militia.

When I consider the great distance thro' the wilderness, the badness of the weather & the difficulty of securing subsistence I am really astonished at the preservance of the gallant

band I had with me & cannot sufficiently praise them for their uniform good conduct, their patience under almost 459 indescribable fatigues & their gallantry & bravery in assaulting the house, which contained of the Enemy several more than our party consisted of—to give you an idea of the fatigue they underwent I will only inform you that the day & night previous to the surprize we marched more than sixty miles the greater part of the way thro' the wilderness—some of the men before they reached the house were so completely exhausted, that they actually fell down useless when marching—After we had secured the Prisoners &c I left the place without any delay, understanding that a reinforcement of the Enemy was expected up the River that morning and have arrived with the prisoners with the exception of two men who escaped from us on the way—the five wounded men were left and parolled and the arms I distributed among the militia of that place—the ammunition was very much damaged.

To Lieut McGregor I am under particular obligations for his zeal and assistance his local knowledge of the country greatly facilitated the execution of the enterprize also to Lieut Price & Ensign Wilson, Serjeant Douglass of the Dragoons & Roderick Drake for the assistance I received from them indeed I cannot sufficiently thank every individual of the party & I trust their truly meritorious conduct will be duly appreciated—You will perceive that the whole party that assaulted the house consisted of but thirty-three including myself & that amongst that number there were but seven Bayonets, the Enemy were well armed.

The consequence of this Expedition will I trust prove beneficial to the loyal inhabitants on the River Thames as it will I presume check any further advance of the Enemy into the country & relieve the people from being obliged either to abandon their houses or subscribe an oath which they detest.

I have the honour To be Yr. hum. Servt Henry Medcalf 1 Lt. V. M.

1 See appendix.

To Lieut Col. Bostwick Commg. Volunteer Militia

[C 682-p 44.]

FROM LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND—UNADDRESSED

(War—1812)

Head Quarters St David's 26 Decm 1813

Dear Sir

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your two Letters of the 17th Decm and immediately on my return to Kingston shall not fail to give the most 460 close consideration to the plan of Commodore Sir James Yeo; for the destruction of the Enemy's Fleet on Lake Erie, and will transmit to you my opinion as to the probability of our being enabled to effect so very important an object.

I am exceedingly glad to find that you propose sending a reinforcement to Mackinac, and request to be informed what proportion of the Provisions will be required from York, that I may take steps to have it forwarded by Younge street to Lake Simcoe, to be in readiness to proceed on the first moment of the opening of the navigation.

I have found it indispensibly necessary to order up half the company of Marine Artillery from Prescott, until you can send me the requisite number of Royal Artillery, to place Fort Niagara in a state of security, I have also ordered the remainder of the King's Regt from York.

The troops at present occupy Chippewa and in advance of it, and tomorrow I move my quarters there. With the greatest difficulty I have been able to collect ten boats and a Scow, with which I hope to cross over the Troops tomorrow, or the following day according

to circumstances and effect the destruction of the Enemy's Vessels, Public Buildings, Stores &c.

Immediately after the movement on Lewiston the Indian Warriors retired to Burlington, and are collecting but slowly towards Chippewa, but by tomorrow, or the following day, I am in hopes a considerable number will join us.

At Black Rock I am informed there are 300 men, and at Buffalo a large Force of Militia under Command of Brigadier General Hopkins. This force is stated to be very badly armed. Brigadier General McClure with about 200 Regulars, and some Indians is said to be at the 11 Mile Creek, to which a great part of the public stores have been conveyed, and indeed I understand that all the Inhabitants have moved from Buffalo with their property. The following are the names of some noncombatants, taken away from their homes by Genl Dearborn who have just returned on Parole

Names

Andrew Heron

John Grier

H. Skinner

— McFarlane

— Lyons

— Geo. Adams

Abraham Nelles

I transmit a copy of that given by the two latter Gentlemen which appears to me to be most unjustifiable, on which subject Your Excellency may wish to have a communication with the American Government.

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I have found it necessary to make the following appointments until your Excellency's pleasure shall be made known, vizt: Mr. Duff late Barrack Master at Amherstburg, to the same situation at Fort Niagara.

Capt. Wilson of the Indian Department, to issue Provisions to the Indian Warriors, with the pay of 7 s per day, and one or more issuers, under the responsibility of the officer at the Head of the Indian Department. A surgeon in the American Army taken in Fort Niagara is at present employed in attending the sick and wounded of the Enemy. I request to know what steps your Excellency would wish to be taken respecting him, when his services as a Medical Officer shall be no longer required. It would perhaps be advisable to permit him to return to the United States, as I am told the Enemy have not considered our medical officers who have fallen into their hands, as prisoners of war.

I transmit the copy of a letter from Brigr General McClure, in answer to one which I directed Lieut: Col Harvey to address to him (a copy of which was forwarded to Your Excellency) for the purpose of ascertaining whether the burning of Newark1 was an act authorized by their Government or merely that of an Individual.

1 See appendix.

I have the honor to be Dear sir Your very faithful Humble Servt Gordon Drummond M. General

N. B. I have recommended Captain Elliott Dy Asst. Qr Mr General and Cap. Foster my Aid de Camp to be appointed by the Right Division of the Army as joint Prize Agents for the Property Captured on the Niagara Frontier. G. D.

EARL BATHURST TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Downing Street 27th Decr 1813

Sir ,

I have this day received, through a private channel, your General Order containing an account of an affair which took place in Upper Canada between the American Army under the command of Genl. Wilkinson and a small British force under the orders of Lt. Col. Morrison, which appears to have moved from Kingston—The result has been such as the uniform good conduct of the Troops under your command would have led me to 462 anticipate, and the Enemy have again experienced that Superiority of numbers is not alone sufficient to ensure the success of the operations—

It will however be very prejudicial to the success of your future Operations, if Genl. Wilkinson has been allowed to establish himself in Cornwall.

You have long looked for an opportunity of meeting the Enemy, and the advantage gained over Genls. Harrison and Wilkinson must have so clearly evinced the commanding superiority of the British Troops, that I trust you have not delayed collecting your force, for the purpose of making an attack before the Enemy could have had time to entrench themselves or to open a communication with General Hampton—

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient Hum Servant, Bathurst

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Lieut Genl Sir Geo. Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 681-p 304.]

EARL BATHURST TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Downing Street 27th December 1813

Sir ,

Since I had the honour of addressing you on the 5th Inst. I have received your further Dispatches to No 106 inclusive with the exception only of No. 95, and I have submitted the most material of them to the consideration of the Prince Regent.

His Royal Highness has observed with the greatest satisfaction the skill & gallantry so conspicuously displayed by the officers & men who composed the detachment of Troops opposed to Genl. Hampton's Army: By the resistance which they successfully made to the enemy so vastly disproportionate, the confidence of the Enemy has been lowered, their plans disconcerted & the safety of that part of the Canadian Frontier ensured. It gives His Royal Highness peculiar pleasure to find that His Majesty's Canadian subjects have had the opportunity (which His Royal Highness has long been desirous should be afforded them) of—by their own brilliant exertions in defence of their Country that caluminous charge of disaffection & disloyalty with which the Enemy prefaced his first Invasion of the Province.

To Colonel Salaberry1 in particular & to all the officers under his command

1 See appendix.

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463 in general you will not fail to express His Royal Highness most gracious approbation of their meritorious and most distinguished services.

His Royal Highness has commanded me to forward to you by the first safe opportunity the colours which you have solicited for the Embodied Battalions of the Militia feeling that they have evinced an ability and disposition to secure them from insult which gives them the best title to such a mark of distinction.

On the subject of the disaster which appears to have befallen the force under the command of General Proctor I am precluded by the absence of the details from expressing any opinion. But whatever may have been the causes which led to it, it is at least satisfactory to observe that it has not influenced the conduct of our Indian Allies nor given to the Enemy any advantage beyond that of which they were already in possession.

The safe arrival of the Marine Battalions, the seamen, the 70th Regt & detachments which accompanied it will have placed at your disposal most opportunely a considerable force, to be applied to that part of the Frontier which you may deem most liable to attack. In addition to this Reinforcement you receive in the Spring a further supply of Seamen & other regiments specified in my dispatch No. 41 of the 13th of August.

I have the honour to be Sir Your most obedient humble servant Bathurst .

Lt. Genl Sir George Prevost Bar— &c. &c. &c.

[C 681-p 306.]

GENERAL ORDER

(*War—1812*)

Head Quarters Chippawa 28th Decr 1813

D. General Order .1

1 See appendix.

The Troops will hold themselves in readiness to embark on the service for which they have been assembled —The embarkation will take place tomorrow night, under such arrangements as may be made by Major Genl. Riall, who will command the whole of the Troops about to pass to the Enemy's shore—

Lieut Genl. Drummond has great satisfaction in reflecting that the Troops to be employed on this occasion are composed of Corps which have 464 always been distinguished for their discipline & gallantry. The Lt. Genl. having personally served in each of them, may be allowed to feel more than a common degree of interest in their success—The service they are going upon is an arduous one, for though the Enemy they will have to encounter be undisciplined, and composed almost entirely of militia, yet he is numerous and highly exasperated—The Troops must therefore depend, wholly not only for their success, but even for their safety, on their bravery & discipline, a relaxation in the latter may be as fatal as even a deficiency in the former quality—The Lt. Genl. most strongly enjoins the Troops *never to throw away their Fire* ; when they do give it, let it be with regularity, and consequently with effect—But the Bayonet is the weapon most formidable in the hands of British Soldiers, and he earnestly hopes that on it they will place their principal dependence on the present occasion.1

1 See appendix.

By the successful accomplishment of the present service, the Enemy will be deprived of all means of offering any further annoyance and the Troops will be suffered to enjoy a well earned repose, during the remainder of the Winter.

Any horses taken from the Enemy will immediately be given up to the Artillery officer for the service of the Guns, to be transferred by him to the Commissariat Department for the Benefit of the Captors.

Any Soldier leaving his Ranks for the purpose of plunder, is liable to be shot on the spot—The captured property belongs not to any individuals but to *all* —

Intoxication in the presence of an Enemy, let it be remembered, is not only the most disgraceful, but the most dangerous crime which a soldier can commit—the man who wilfully disqualifies himself from meeting the Enemy, by whatever means cannot be considered as a brave man.

[signed] J. Harvey Lt. Col. D. A. G.

[C 681-p 310.]

CAPTAIN BULLOCK TO SECRETARY FREER

Michilimackinac 29th Decem 1813

Sir

Application has been made to me by the soldiers of this garrison to grant them a daily allowance of spiritous Liquor which *They say* is allowed to the other Troops in Canada—not knowing that Liquor is generally issued to the Troops, nor feeling myself authorized to comply with their wish, I have the 465 honor to submit their request for the consideration of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces

I have the honor to be Sir Your very obedt humble servt Richd Bullock Capt 41st Regt

Noah Freer Esq Military Secretary Quebec

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[C 681-p 329.]

CAPTAIN BULLOCK TO SECRETARY FREER

(War—1812)

Michilimackinac 30th Decmr 1813

Sir

My Letter to the adjutant General of the 20th October will have informed His Excellency of the state of this Post with respect to Provisions and of the steps I have taken in consequence.—In my letter to you of the 23d October I mentioned that I should lose no time in sending what Canoes I could to Matchedash for the Flour and Pork Mr. Dickson had directed to be sent to that place from York. However the Nancy schooner in Government service being here at the time I ordered the master Mr. Macintosh to proceed to Matchedash with her for the Provision, who reported his vessel as being unfit from bad sails and cables to perform the voyage, I therefore ordered a survey on them the report of which I send you—Having no alternative, on the 28th Octr I despatched two large Canoes & a Batteau man'd with Indians & some of the Michigan Fencibles with an Interpreter and a Serjeant of the Veterans for that Place—Previous to this party's leaving the Island I was told by the oldest residents the impracticability of the undertaking, but our situation warranted me to make the trial, on the 2nd November the Batteau with the serjeant & one of the Canoes returned, the Indians having refused to proceed owing to the weather setting in very severe with Frost & snow and they had to cut their way through the ice to get back—It was now too late to send off another party, nor indeed could I get any person on the Island to undertake it notwithstanding a large sum was offered by the Commissary for that purpose—The other Canoe with Indians having Presents for a few inhabitants on the north shore of Lake 59 466 Huron were prevailed on by the Interpreter to go on for the purpose of delivering them—The interpreter on his return informed me that when the

Presents were delivered the weather becoming more moderate he further prevailed on the Indians to go to Matchedash for what provision they could bring in the Canoe where they arrived on the 15th November, but to their great disappointment the Provision had not been brought to that place. In consequence least they should be frozen up they lost no time in returning here and after suffering very severely arrived on the 2d Inst:—

That His Excellency may be fully Acquainted with our situation as regards Provision, I herewith send you a Return of what we have to exist upon until a supply can be sent us—That the Troops &c may have a proportion of animal food as long as possible, on the 1st November I reduced the ration of Beef to half a pound per day, I have since on the 25th Inst. limited the issue of meat to four days in the week at the above allowance which will give us a small quantity of that food until March, We must then have recourse to Indian Corn & what Fish can be caught—Flour by mixing some Indian meal with it we shall have a sufficience to serve us until May. The daily issue of Rations is one hundred & Eighteen.1

1 See appendix.

With respect to the Nancy please to let me know if it is the wish of His Excellency that vessel should be retained in the service. By the report of the Board it will be seen she is not fit for the Lake until a new cable & sails can be had, which articles are not to be obtained here—

Public money at this Post there is none, the dearth of which is severely felt, and it is with much difficulty the service is carried on without it.

I have to acknowledge your Letter of the 6th October, the Indian goods arrived safe and have been distributed agreeable to the Instructions I received with them, The Indians in the neighbourhood appear to be well disposed towards us, tho' it was with difficulty I could get any of them to remain after they had received their Presents to assist in defence of the Post in any attack the Enemy might have made against it, giving for reason they wanted to establish themselves at their wintering ground before the winter set in—some few

remained until the 28th November, many have promised to be here early in the ensuing spring.

I have the honor to be Sir Your very obedt humble sevt Richd Bullock Capt. 41st Regt

Noah Freer Esq Military Secretary Quebec

[C 681-p 331.]

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CAMPAIGN OF 1814

COLONEL BAYNES TO LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND

(*War—1812*)

Head Quarters, Quebec 5 January 1814

Sir

By order of the Commr of the Forces, I have the Honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23d December accompanying one from Major Genl Proctor of the 14th of the same month, and His Excy commands me to inform you and to request you will acquaint Majr Genl Proctor, that having thought proper to transmit his official Report, for the consideration of His Majesty's Ministers that it is His Excly's intention to await their further instructions and that His Execy does not deem it expedient to comply with the Major Genl request for a Public Investigation of his conduct, in consequence of all the principal officers of the Right Division having become Prisoners of War and remaining in the possession of the Enemy the necessary evidence cannot now be obtained to elucidate the causes and events which have led to the disgraceful defeat and capture of the Troops of the Right Division placed under his command1

1 Proctor, put to it by reason of unfavorable comments on his conduct, had made previous requests for an official investigation.

I have &c (Signed) Edward Baynes A. Gl.

To Gen'l Lieut Drummond &c. &c. &c.

A truly copy signed H. W. Proctor junr

[C 680-p 301.]

MR. CLAUS TO LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND

(*Indians*)

York 9th of January 1814

Sir ,

Herewith I have the honor to transmit two abstract of disbursements in the Indian Dept. at Michilimackinac between the 25th december 1812 & 24th June 1813, with the several vouchers accompanying them.

These abstracts not being certified by the Supt. of the North West Indians, by whose Requisition it is presumed the goods & canoes were purchase; 468 and the Store Keeper at Michilimackinac not having given any explanation of the transaction, I do not think myself authorized to sign the abstracts in the usual manner, altho the signature of Captain Roberts commanding that Post leaves no room to doubt that the goods were purchased for the use of the North West Indians. I therefore beg leave to submit these accounts to your Honor's consideration.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obt. humble Servt. W. Claus D. S. G. Ind. Affrs.

His Honor Lieut General Drummond &c &c &c

[C 257-p 199.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston January 10th 1814

Sir

In reference to Your Excellency's Letter of the 2d Inst:, I have the honor to state, that Major General Stovin arrived at Burlington, on his way to Turkey Point, on the 31st Ulto. The Major Genl reports that he had fully expected Lieut Colonel James1 had proceeded towards the westward; but found he had not from the want of sleighs, and the roads having become impassable for that mode of proceeding by a heavy thaw, the project of endeavouring to surprize the Enemy's advanced Party of Foragers at Camden has necessarily been abandoned for the present,—But Lieut Colonel James has been directed by Major General Stovin, immediately on the roads being again fit for sleighing, to set out upon the expedition, should the Enemy not have previously retired to Detroit.

1 See appendix.

A Person lately escaped from thence reports that the Enemy has made Detroit extremely strong. The Fort of Malden is heavily picketted all round.—Twenty two Pieces of Ordnance are in the Place; five 18 Pounders, two brass 12s two 9s and one Mortar, being mounted.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellency's Most obedient humble Servant Gordon Drummond Lt General

His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bt &c &c &c

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[C 687-p 21.]

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LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston January 12th 1814.

Sir

I have the honor to acquaint Your Excellency that my latest Reports from Major General Stovin state that the Enemy had passed Arnold's (near Dalson's) in number about 130, on their return to Detroit, on the 20th ultimo; followed by their Cavalry, about 60, on the 22d. They took off with them all the Flour and grain in that Direction, for the purpose of depositing it, with the rest of the Provisions they have seized, at Detroit. They burned Arnold's Barn, on retiring.—

The Roads from Delaware Town are stated to be in a most impassable degree bad; so that Lieut. Colonel James, could not have made his intended movement with that rapidity which would have ensured surprise, even had the enemy remained at Camden; and had the attempt been made sooner the roads were in such a condition as to have precluded all hope of success.—

It has also been reported to me, from a person who crossed over at Fort Erie Ferry on Saturday last, that the Enemy have brought on to Buffalo 150 Pieces of Cannon, and that they intend taking possession of Fort Erie again as soon as the weather permits.—That they are raising two Regiments of Colour.—And that Sergeant Powell, of the 19th Light Dragoons, is at Eleven Mile Creek, in a most deplorable state; extremely anxious either by exchange or on Parole, to be permitted to come to Canada.

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I have the Honor to be Sir Your Excellency's most obedient humble Servant Gordon Drummond Lt General

His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bt &c &c &c

[C 687-p 24.]

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MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR TO LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND

(*War—1812*)

York 14 Jany. 1814.

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the Receipt of Your Letter of the 13th Inst. together with the refusal of His Excelly. The Comr. of the Forces to my request for a Public Investigation of my conduct respecting the Right Division of the Army during the Period they were placed under my command. The reason assigned by His Excelly. the absence of many of the officers concerned did not even in the first instance escape my consideration. I felt this in its fullest extent, had that not been the case I should have urged in the strongest manner my just claim to an immediate Public Investigation in my letter to Majr. Genl. de Rottenburg of the 3d Novm—Greatly painful as my feelings have been in submitting to the slander of the Public, Consideration for the service and those absentees alone prevented me so long as I could with honor or justice refrain from it. The General order of the 24th November last left me no option and put an end to forbearance on my part. I shall only observe that those orders speak for themselves—The consequences that must result to me from their having been forwarded to His Majesty's Ministers uncontroverted by me, together with His Excelly's remarks thereon not to mention the odium excited by their circulation are but too obvious, if I should neglect by every means in my power to

do myself justice. My wounder honor, the service, my Family & friends all demand this of me more I do not seek, situated as I am I can no longer be useful to service, until I have cleared my reputation of the stain cast upon it by those orders, I must therefore earnestly request to be permitted to immediately proceed to England to ask Justice where it never was denied, nor any individual condemned unheard at all Events to suspend the decision of the Government and avert the consequences until an investigation may take place.1 As it cannot be expected that I can await patiently the result of measures calculated to ruin me and submit to have my reputation destroyed not only in this Country but in Great Britain in the attainment of the above important end, having lost many of my Papers, I have earnestly to request that all my official letters as well as Copies of those to me from His Excelly's or written to me by his order during my Command of the Right Division may be furnished me, and in order to guard against accident and the serious consequences that must arise from any delay in my reaching England, I beg you will be pleased to forward to His Excelly. after persual the accompanying Packet directed to His Rl. Highness the

1 This strong appeal from Proctor proved effective, but he was not granted permission to go to England at this time. After the war he returned and died at Liverpool in 1859 aged 84

471 Comr. in Chief with my earnest solicitation that he will be pleased to forward the same the first opportunity, to be submitted by His Royal Highs. to the gracious consideration of His Rl. Hs. the Prince Regent

I have the honor to be Sir Your Mo Obt Hble Sert (Sd) Henry Proctor Majr. Genl.

To Lieut. Genl. Drummond & & &

[C 680-p 302.]

MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR TO THE DUKE OF YORK1

1 As previously noted the Duke of York, son of King George III, was at this time commander in chief of all the forces of Great Britain.

(*War—1812*)

York Upper Canada 14th January 1814

Sir

With the most poignant regret, I feel myself called upon to approach Your Royal Highness for Protection and that Redress which has been refused me by His Excely. the Comr. of the Forces in this Country.

The accompanying Papers will explain the unfortunate cause that has led to this application; I had been less urgent for an immediate investigation for the reason assigned by His Excellency in his refusal until the General order of the 24th November, removed all doubt that there was supposed to be a sufficiency of Evidence against me as I conceive myself by those orders to have been condemned and punished to a degree short only of Cashiering with the aggrevating circumstance of its being applied to be founded in part on my own report, until this solitary instance, I could feel on gratification from the conduct to me of those under whom I have served How painful must be the exception especially after the flattering testimonies received here also great must have been my good fortune or great indeed the Errors and neglects of Two or Three Days to destroy the Fruits of Two and Thirty Years service, after having obtained my utmost wish, the object of my highest ambition, the Public approbation of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, I am not insensible to the serious losses that have been sustained in the District of Upper Canada in which I commanded and that the Public have a right to expect the strictest scrutiny into the causes and events which have led to those results. I am most anxious to give an account of my conduct in those transactions and trust I shall be able to do so if not with credit to myself at least without disgrace. In a letter from His Excellency 472 of the 6th of

last october, he is pleased after “entirely approving of “my determination consequent upon the loss of the Fleet to make a stand “upon the Thames” to express himself in the following terms “I am “happy to find in the midst of all your difficulties that you preserve un“broken the spirit of a British officer, which makes you rise superior to “them and which will I trust aided by the valour and Discipline of the “Troops under your command finally extricate you from them”

I again beg leave most respectfully to intreat Your Rl. Highness's Protection and favorable notice and that you will be pleased to submit my case to the Gracious consideration of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

With profound respect I have the honor to be Your Royal Highnessis most obt & Devoted Humble Servant (Sid) Henry Proctor M. General

To His Royal Highness The Duke of York &. &. &.

[C 680-p 305.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston 19th Jany 1814

Dear Sir

In reply to Your Excellency's letter of the 2d Inst marked private, I beg to assure you, that I have lost no time in giving ample instructions relative to the supply of troops, and Provisions to be forwarded to Michilimackinac by Lakes Simcoe & Huron, as also with regard to the building of Gun Boats, & Batteaux at Penetanguishene Bay for their conveyance thither.1

1 See appendix.

In fact I had prior to the receipt of Your Excellency's letter, already ordered two of the latter description of Boat to be constructed at that place, for the transport of the Provisions & stores for some time since deposited at Mackidash, and also for 100 Bls of Flour & 50 of Pork which I had ordered in addition before I left York.

I found it totally impracticable to push the Troops of the Right Division beyond Buffaloe, & fortunately I did not even attempt it, for with every exertion, I had sufficient time only to repass them across the River, previous to it being blocked up with ice; With regard to Sackett Harbour, any 473 information I have received from thence has been so unsatisfactory, that I cannot form any just opinion of the practicability of any attempt upon it at present, But your Excellency may rest assured that I will not lose sight of any favourable opportunity which may offer of aiming a heavy stroke at so vital a spot of the Enemy's resources in this neighbourhood. Your Excellency is at the same time well aware of the Inadequacy of the force I can command in this vicinity for an operation of any magnitude.

I have the honor to be Dear Sir Your mo: obedt faithful servant Gordon Drummond Lt General

His Excellency Sir George Prevost &. &. &

[S 682-p 27.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston January 21st 1814

Sir

Your Excellencys letter of the 17th ultimo: directing me to give my opinion on the practicability of an attempt being made, for the destruction of the Enemy's vessels and craft, on Lake Erie, I have the honor to acquaint you, that I have had, since my return to Kingston, frequent communications, with Commodore, Sir James Yeo, and with Colonel Nichol, Quarter Master General of Militia, whose local Knowledge renders him competent to afford the most correct information, on this important subject.

The security of the Right Flank of the Army, and the preservation of our intercourse with, and influence over, the western Indians, being objects of the very first importance, it is proposed to undertake an Expedition against Detroit, and the Enemy's vessels in that Quarter, as the only means by which these ends can be obtained.—

In making arrangements for the service, due regard must be had to, the immediate security of the Niagara Frontier, the Force which the Enemy has at Detroit, and to the means necessary to transport and to provision the Force. which it may be thought necessary to employ.

From the destruction of the Enemy's Boats and Craft on the Niagara, no apprehension of an attack need be entertained, on any part of that line below Fort Erie, and a very small force will suffice to prevent their crossing 60 474 on the ice.—By Blocking up the roads, leading from Sugar Loaf, and from Hawa's, all the routes, excepting that immediately on the bank of the River, will be closed, and, therefore, our line of defence will be shortened and greatly strengthened—Under these circumstances I should consider twelve hundred men as amply sufficient for the defence of this line which will leave a sufficient number for performing the other service.

I am not correctly informed on the strength of the Enemy at Detroit; but, from the information I have received, it cannot be very great, and I understand it is not in their

power to subsist a very large force in that country; it having been very greatly exhausted during the last Campaign: and the Enemy having no other resource, but to bring their provisions from the State of Ohio, on pack horses, and in waggons, which is a most tedious, expensive, and difficult mode of supply. I should not under the Circumstances just mentioned, estimate the force of the Enemy at more than Six hundred effective men. Of those I suppose Four hundred to be in Garrison at Detroit; the remainder at Amherstburg, Sandwich, and other out Posts.

The force I should propose for this service would be

100th Regiment 500

Light Company Royal Scotts 100

Do 41st Rgt completed to 100

Do 89th Regiment 50

750

Marines, if to be had 100

850

Marine Artillery, with two six pounders, & one 5½ Inch Howitzer 40

Militia 250

Western Indians 400

Cap: Coleman's Provincial Troop 20

Seamen 200

17601

1 A sufficient force to get results had the ice proved to be as solid as the scheme assumed it would be.

The detachment of seamen would be of the greatest service, in the attack on the vessels in Put in Bay.

The next consideration is the moving and provisioning this force, which, from the state of the country, must be marched in separate columns, and probably by the following routes:

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Light Infantry and part of the Militia, by the Talbot Road;

100th Regiment &c and Guns, through Oxford; Indians, from Point aux Pins,1 to Point Petee, followed by Light Infantry, and part of the Militia, through the woods.

1 See appendix.

A Road, at this season of the year, the ground being frozen, may be made with facility, through the woods, from the Thames to Amherstburg, without going round, and by moving by this last mentioned route, to the new settlements on the Lake, with the Aid of the Militia of that country, all communication with the Islands, will be prevented; and Amherstburg will immediately be secured; with such resources as the surrounding country can supply. While the rapid advance of the Troops by the Thames, will prevent the Enemy from detaching, either to support Amherstburg, or to reinforce their Post at the Islands.

In some instances it will be necessary for the Troops to sleep out; but, being sheltered by the woods, and with large fires, it is hoped they will not suffer much.—

The troops should be provided with Bill-hooks, or light Hatchets; and the Militia with each, a good axe, exclusive of his Musquet or Rifle, and the whole to be supplied with creepers.

The Provisions necessary to subsist this force, may be calculated at 2500 rations per diem, weighing, including contingencies, two and a half pounds each, or 6250 lb.—A sleigh may be calculated to carry (1000 lb) one thousand pound weight, so that for 21 days provisions, 132 sleighs would be requisite—It is, however, proposed to take 300 sleighs; as in moving the troops forward they might (as it is called) ride and tie; that is, suppose a column of 500 men on the march; 250 might make 12 or 15 miles without halting, while the other 250 went on sleighs. At the end of this march the party in sleighs having refreshed themselves, would proceed on foot, leaving the sleighs for the party in the rear, who would get into them, and overtake the party in advance, in the evening; by which means they might proceed thirty miles per day.

To procure the necessary number of sleighs, active young officers from the Militia should be selected, viz. one in each township, who would procure even twice the number if wanted.

On arriving at Amherstburg the movements of the Troops would altogether depend on the information received. But, I should think, that the capture of Detroit would be indispensible, previous to any attack upon the vessels, unless they should be in the Detroit River; as were Detroit left in the Enemy's possession, the vessels at the Islands could not be maintained, without running a very great risque.

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The River Detroit, during the winter, may be crossed in several places; though seldom immediately opposite the town. And in Lake St. Clair, and at the Bar-Point below Amherstburg, it may be Crossed in most seasons, as late as the middle of March.

The distance, from Amherstburg, to Put in Bay, where two of the Enemy's vessels are said to be, is about forty miles; all the way on the ice.—

Should the expedition be determined upon, the sooner it is undertaken the better; as the Enemy will, doubtless, make great exertion to reinforce, and Provision, Detroit; which delay, on our part, will perfectly enable them to effect.—

As much Biscuit as possible should immediately be baked; on which subject I have called the attention of the commissariat at Niagara and York.—

I need scarcely observe to Your Excellency the necessity of the Commissariat being furnished with a supply of at least four, or five thousand pounds, in specie, and small bills for this occasion.

Should this proposed outline of operations meet Your Excellency's view's, I shall lose no time in putting matters in train for carrying them into execution; altho' the state of the roads, through the want of Snow, from the Bay of Quinite, upwards, renders any movement of such a nature, at present, totally impractable.

I am aware, there are several minor arrangements to be made, but which easily can be, provided the General plan be approved of.

I propose moving with this expedition myself, and Commodore Sir James Yeo. has expressed his intention to accompany me—I shall be most happy to avail myself of his services, if it meets Your Excellency's approbation.1

1 See appendix.

I have the honor to be &c &c &c Gordon Drummond Lt General

His Excellency Sir George Prevost, Bart &c &c &c

[C 682-p 32.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SECRETARY FREER

(*Indians*)

Kingston 22nd Jany. 1814

Sir ,

I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration & decision of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces a letter from the Deputy 477 Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, with abstracts of disbursements in the Indian department at Michilimackinac from the 25th of December 1812 to the 24th of March 1813 & from the 25th of March to the 24th of June of the same year, accompanied by the vouchers for those disbursements.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient humble servant Gordon Drummond Lt. General

Noah Freer Esquire Mily. Secy &c. &c. &c.

[C 257-p 198.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston 23d Jany 1814.

Dear Sir

Since addressing to your Excellency the proposed outline of operations against Detroit and the Enemy's vessels on Lake Erie, it has struck me that you might not consider it

unadvisable to send part of the reinforcements, destined for Michilimackinac with the Detroit expedition, instead of by the route of Penetanguishine Bay, as they would serve in the first instance to increase the strength of the assailing Force, and might afterwards, in the event of success easily be transported from Detroit to their ultimate destination. Your Excellency will perhaps favor me with your opinion on this subject.

I have the honor to be Dear Sir Your very faithful humble servant Gordon Drummond lt General

His Excellency Sir George Prevost & & &

[C 682-p 41.]

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COL. BRUYERES TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*Provincial Marine*)

York 23d January 1814

Sir ,

I have to report to Your Excellency my arrival here yesterday. I was detained some days at Kingston waiting the arrival of Genl. Drummond as I was apprehensive of passing him on the Road. I have made every enquiry since I have been here respecting the practicability of building four Gun Boats in Penetanguishene Harbour on Lake Huron for the purpose of communicating from thence to the Island of Michilimakinac as early as the opening of the navigation can permit. the total want of resources in this part of the country renders any public undertaking extremely difficult and uncertain. I have seen the only person here that could be competent for this service (Mr Dennis late Master Builder at Kingston) he is at present unemployed but from the conversation I have had with him he is unwilling to engage in this business owing to the impossibility of procuring workmen here for the

purpose. Captain Barclay whom I have seen on this subject very strongly recommends a Mr Bell who was Master Builder at Amherstburg he is now at Kingston, and I have written to Genl Drummond to endeavor to engage him for this service, and to procure 12 Ship Wrights to accompany him, I have stated fully all that will be necessary, and I still hope that this business may be accomplished.

The total want of Artificers and Labourers of every Description has retarded the progress of all the public works here, and unless some efficient means are taken to procure men nothing effectual can be done towards the Defence of the place. Kitson has exerted himself to the utmost but personal exertion is of no use without assistance, only 13 carpenters are now employed whereas four times the number are required. The want of snow has also retarded the supply of Materials being brought but the Roads are now more practicable, and I have directed requisitions to be immediately made for all that is necessary.

Mr. Crookshanks the Commissary is at present at Lake Simcoe where I understand he is gone to make arrangements for the building of five Batteaux to convey provisions that were left on the communication to be sent to Michilimackinac.

I proceed this day towards Niagara, and shall make every arrangement in my power on my arrival there for the security of that Frontier but I am informed the want of Workmen is fully as severely felt as in this place, and 479 in some instances worse, but I will do the best that can be devised for the public service.

I have the Honor to be with the greatest Respect Your Excellency's most obedient and most Humble Servant R. H. Bruyeres

His Excellency Lieut Genl. Sir George Prevost Bart.

[C 732-p 10.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston , Jany 25th 1814

Sir ,

I have already had the honor of communicating to Your Excellency, in my letter of the 23d ulto. the gallant conduct of Lieut Medcalf, of the Volunteer Militia of the Western District, in surprising & capturing a Detachment of the Enemy on the River Thames, early in the last month. I have now the honor to transmit that officer's own Report on the subject.

I consider it to reflect so high credit on Lieut. Medcalf's loyalty, gallantry, and indefatigible zeal, that I have conferred on him the Provincial Rank of Captain, in consequence—

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellency's most obedient humble servant Gordon Drummond lt. General

His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 682-p 43.]

EARL BATHURST TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Downing Street 27th Jany. 1814.

Sir ,

His Royal Highness the Prince Regent having been pleased to direct that Badges of Honor should be conferred upon such officers as shall be reported 480 by Your Excellency to

have merited this high distinction by the conduct & valor displayed by them in the actions in the Margin,1 I am to desire that you will be pleased to transmit to me by the earliest opportunity a Return of the Militia Officers whom you may consider deserving this honor, confining yourself in the selection of them to the Rules and limitations specified in the inclosed copy of Instructions which have been issued in former cases in which similar distinctions have been conferred upon officers of the regular army.

1 Capture of Detroit.

Battle of Chateaugay.

Battle of Crystler's Farm.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient humble Servant Bathurst

To Lieut General Sir George Prevost Bart &c &c &c

[C 682-p 63.]

Enclosed Instructions

H. R. H. the Prince Regent is pleased to command in the name & on the behalf of H. M. that the Distribution of Medals or Badges for Military services of distinguished merit shall be regulated as follows—vizt.

1st That no General or other Officer shall be entitled to receive them, unless he has been personally & particularly engaged upon those occasions of great importance, & peculiar brilliancy, in commemoration of which the Prince Regent in the name & on the behalf of His Majesty may be graciously pleased to bestow such marks of Distinction.

2nd That no officer shall be considered a candidate for the medal or Badge except under the special selection & Report of the Comr. of the Forces upon the spot as having merited the distinction by conspicuous services.

3d That the Comr. of the Forces shall transmit to the Comr. in Chief returns signed by himself specifying the names and Ranks of those officers whom he shall have selected as particularly deserving.

4th The Comr. of the Forces in making the selection will restrict his choice to the undermentioned Ranks.

General Officers

Comg. Officers of Brigades

Do. do. of Artillery or Engineers

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Adjutant General & Qr. Mr. General

Deputies of Do & Do having the Rank of Field Officers.

Assistant Adjutants & Qr. Masters General having the Rank of field officers & being at the head of the staff with a detached corps distinct division of the Army.

Military Secretary having the Rank of Field Officers.

Commanding officers of Battalions, or Corps equivalent thereto, or officers who may have succeeded to the actual command during the Engagement, in consequence of the death or removal of the original Comr. in Chief.

[C 682-p 65.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston January 28th 1814

Sir ,

I have the honor to acquaint Your Excellency that I received a communication from Deputy Assistant General Crookshank, at York, on his return from Lake Simcoe; where he had been to make arrangements for forwarding the supplies to Michilimackinac—

He informs me that, from the authority of several credible persons, and likewise from Mr. Wilmot, the Surveyor, who had been employed in running the Line, from Lake Simcoe to Penetanguishene Bay, that it is impracticable to transport anything by that Route, previous to a road being cut upwards of thirty miles in length; and that it was calculated to take 200 men for at least 3 weeks, before it could be made passable, and in case of deep snow, it could not be done at all—

In consequence of the delay, and difficulty attending such a measure, Mr. Crookshank has made arrangements for forwarding the supplies to *Nottawasaga* Bay,1 on Lake Huron a distance only of 20 miles from Penetanguishene.

1 Nottawasaga bay is at the southern part of the Georgian bay; Collingwood is situated at the head of Nottawasaga bay.

The opening of the road to the river, leading to Nottawasaga Bay, will take but 12 men for about 10 days; and, in the course, of a few days, as soon as a shed can be erected on the other side of Lake Simcoe, he will commence sending the stores across it, should a thaw not prevent.

As Mr. Crookshank found it almost impossible to procure hands to build boats & altogether so a person to contract for the whole, or even a part; I 61 482 have had a communication with the Commissioner of the Navy here; who says he could furnish 30 workmen, with an able foreman; that would ensure the measure being completed in the given time, contracts at once for the building of as many as should be required— And they could set out from hence at a day's notice, well furnished with Tools & Oakum and every other requisite for the occasion.

This mode of proceeding would undoubtedly prove somewhat expensive but I see no alternative.

And as there would be some check upon the work of the new ships here, unless it was thought proper to send up an additional number of workmen, to supply the place of those otherwise to be employed, I have to request Your Excellency's Instructions on this head, as soon as convenient.

I have the honour to be Sir Your Excellency's most obedient humble Servant Gordon Drummond Lt. General.

P. S. Since writing the foregoing I have received a letter from Lt. Col. Bruyeres from York, corroborating that part of Mr. Crookshank's Letter, relative to the inability of procuring persons there, to build at Penetanguishene Bay; and asserting that the only way this object can be accomplished is by sending up builders with the necessary materials of Pitch Ironwork &c from Kingston G.D.

His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bart &c. &c &c.

[C 682-p 67.]

THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

Library of Congress

(*War—1812*)

Horse Guards 28th January 1814

Sir ,

His Royal Highness The Prince Regent, having observed with great satisfaction the successful exertions made by the Detachment of the British Army serving in the Canadas against very superior Numbers of the Enemy, has been graciously pleased to signify his Commands to me, through the Secretary of State, that the officers who have been most distinguished in 483 the two last Campaigns in that Quarter shall receive an Honorary mark of Approbation, in commemoration of the Events in which they have been distinguished; I have therefore to transmit for your information & guidance a copy of the regulations published in the Gazette of the 9th October last, respecting the grant of Medals & Badges of distinction & to desire that you will immediately transmit me a list of the names of such officers of the Regular Army under your command as you may be induced to recommend, according to the principle contained in these Regulations.

The actions which are considered by His Royal Highness as giving a just claim to such distinctions on the part of the officers engaged are—

1st The Capture of Detroit and of the American Army under the Command of General Hull on the 16th August 1812.

2ndly The Defeat of the American Army under the command of General Hampton at Chateauguay, on the 26th Oct. 1813

3rdly The defeat of the American Army under General Wilkinson at Chrystler's (Crystler's) Farm on the 11th November 1813

I am Sir Yours Frederick Commander in Chief

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Lieut General Sir George Prevost Bart or officer Commanding the Forces in British North America

[C 682-p 79.]

SECRETARY FREER TO MAJ. GEN. DE ROTTENBURG

(*Indians*)

Head Quarters Montreal 30th January 1814.

Sir ,

The Commander of the Forces has directed me to transmit to you for the consideration of the Board of officers of which you are President ordered to assemble to morrow morning the following papers vizt

No. 1. Is a Letter from Messrs. Forsyth Richardson & Co. & Messrs. McTavish McGillivray & Co. transmitting sundry accounts for supplies stated to be furnished to the Western Indians on account of Govt. during the year 1813, which His Excellency desires may be carefully investigated and you are required to report upon those claims for his consideration.

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No. 2 Is a Letter from Maj. Genl. Vincent enclosing papers relative to the loss of a vessel on Lake Erie belonging to Mr. Richard Pattinson destroyed while in the service of Govt. upon which you will be pleased to report how far a claim for remuneration may be deemed proper & equitable.

No. 3. Is a Letter from Lt. General Drummond submitting certain accounts of disbursements on account of the Indians at the Post of Michilimackinac between Dec. 1812 and June 1813, which you will enquire into and report how far the same are properly

vouched, & if the parties possess a just claim upon the Govt. for the amount of the supplies stated to be furnished.

No. 4. Is a Memorial from Messrs. Forsyth Richardson & Co. & Messrs. McTavish McGillivray & Co. respecting certain furs captured at Michilimackinac on board vessels under the flag of the Enemy, after that post was possessed by our Troops, upon which His Excellency desires to be furnished with the opinion of the Board, how far the furs in question may be deemed the property of British Subjects as claimed or whether they ought properly to be considered as lawful prize to the captors & the proceeds of the same distributed with the amount of their prize money, as the regulations may provide.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient humble Servant Noah Freer Mily. Secy

To Maj. Genl. de Rottenburg President of Board of Officers

[C 257-p 191]

MR. ELLIOTT TO MAJOR GLEGG

(*War—1812*)

Beach 31st January 1814

Sir ,

The Indian Messengers I had sent to the Westward arrived to day at 12 o'clock Just as I received your letter.—

They brought a Speech on Wampum from their Brethren expressing their joy at our success and their anxious wishes for our speedy arrival among them, telling their Father that they have only taken the Big Knife1 by *his fingers end* and have spoken to them from the lip outwards and that

1 By Big Knife is meant the Americans, “by his fingers end,” “from the lips outwards,” expressions indicating feigning or insincerity.

485 they are always ready to obey their Father's order so soon as given. That they are more afraid of the French inhabitants who are all armed, than of the American Troops, because if they hear of their having received messages from this place they will seize their wives & children & put them in confinement.

The messengers report that the inhabitants have made the Indians believe that the Americans had cleared all before them to Quebec & that the small remnant was shut up in Quebec living on dogs & horses—

The Americans they suppose are in expectation of a reinforcement at Detroit as a vast number of Hogs & Cattle are daily killed & the store kept full— The Detroit with about a hundred Shot Holes on her is at Amherstburg and all the other vessels at Presquisle — This we will be more certain of when Captain Caldwell arrives—Our Friends to the westward make a demand of arms & ammunition and wish us to send about forty men loaded with the articles. Arms also & Gunpowder are wanted for the people here of the first I secured some from Kingston & you can supply the latter. The Stores here will otherwise answer all the demands—

The Saakies & Foxes as they intend to go to their own country are arriving at Detroit, will take their Families with them, but as there are not many of them the Expence will not be considerable. The other Tribes leave their Families here & six hundred warriors if wanted are ready to cooperate with the Troops & only wait the call.

Upon this point the Lieut Genls further directions are requested—

Altho' desirous of manifesting in the name of H. R. H. the Prince Regent, his desire to maintain a perfectly good understanding with the Western Indians & to protect them from the encroachments of the U. S. upon their territory I am disposed to relinquish that wish

provided Lt. Genl. Drummond is satisfied that the reasons alleged are Just & ought to be attended to—

It is my opinion that at present it would not be proper for us to meddle with young Techkumtha;1 he is very young & it might disgust his nation— He has yet time to shew his nation whether they would take him as their Chief—

1 Tecumthaie, young son of Tecumseh the warrior.

I had almost forgot to mention that I received a few days ago a Letter on the Subject of the projected Expedition from His Honor Lieutenant General Drummond requiring my opinion about employing only the Delawares & Munseys, and also his desire that no useless consumer of provisions should be allowed to go along. I certainly am of his & General Riall's opinion as to the last but I stated to him on the subject of the Munseys & Delawares, that it appeared to me impolitic, & might occasion jealousies, & I proposed 486 a selection from all the Tribes, amounting to the number that might be required, as a step that I was sure would give general satisfaction.

I am now recruiting slowly & hope in a few days to be able to undertake any service General Riall may wish to be performed.

I have the honor to be Sir Your obedient Humble Servant M. Elliott S. I. A.

Major Glegg Major of Brigade &c Head Quarters Right Division

[C 682-p 150.]

MR. SMITH TO SECRETARY FREER

(*War—1812*)

York 2nd February 1814

Noah Freer Esqre

Sir ,

Two days previous to my arrival here General proctor had left it for Lower Canada should he not have the Prize Lists probably Lieut Coll Nichol may have copies or original of them

I shall leave this tomorrow for Head Quarters of the right division and shall see Coll Nichol on the subject &c.

I have called on Angus McIntosh Esqre one of the Debtors to the Prize Property sold at Detroit. Who refuses payment alledging that in his claims against the commissioners; I shall of course state his answer to Coll Nichol.

I shall be happy to receive your orders by return of the Express, circumstances will guide my destination.

I have taken the liberty of enclosing a letter to Mrs. Smith fearing she may be anxious about me, there being no Post from this within fourteen days

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient servant Wm Smith .

[C 695-p 6.]

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LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SECRETARY FREER

(*Indians*)

Kingston February 5th 1814.

Sir ,

In reply to your letter of the 29th ultimo, I have the honor to acquaint you for the information of the Commander of the Forces, that I have given directions to Colonel Claus, of the Indian Department, to signify to the son & daughter of the late Shawanese Chief Tecumseh, His Excellency's desire to see them in Lower Canada together with any of the chiefs of the Western Indians (as a deputation from those Tribes) that may be willing to accompany them.

I have likewise given orders to the commissariat to afford them the necessary assistance on the journey to Montreal.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient humble Servant Gordon Drummond Lt. General

Lieutenant Freer Military Secretary &c. &c. &c.

[C 257-p 211.]

THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Horse Guards 12th February 1814.

Sir ,

I have had great satisfaction in receiving your Dispatch of the 19th Nov. last, containing the details, of the attack made by a Division of the American Force under Brig. Genl. Body,1 against the Corps of Observation commanded by Lieut Coll. Morrison of the 89th Regiment, near Chrystler's (Crystler's) in the Township of Williamsburg, in which the Enemy was repulsed & defeated with very considerable loss—

1 See appendix.

I request you will convey to Lt. Col. Morrison & the Officers & men under his command upon that occasion, my perfect approbation of the gallant and judicious conduct which they displayed; & I have to acquaint you that in consequence of your Recommendation the name of Capt. Barns of the 89th Regiment will be submitted to The Prince Regent, for the Brevet Rank of Major.

The account which your Dispatch conveys of the Result of the Action 488 that took place on Lake Erie in September last, is much to be regretted, but it is still a Source of consolation in this unfortunate affair, that the Honor of the British Flag has been nobly sustained by Capt. Barclay and the brave officers & men of the different Vessels under his command.

I am Yours Frederick Comr in Chief

To Lt. Genl. Sir Geo. Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 682-p 109.]

STATEMENT OF DISBURSEMENTS

(*Commissariat*)

Statement of Disbursements made by Depy. Asst. Commissary General Gilmore on account of the public Service, at the post of Detroit, by the Hands of Deputy Asst. Commissary General Reynolds, between the 25th of June, and the 24th of September 1813 inclusive, the Vouchers and authorities for which, were unavoidably lost by falling into the Hands of the Enemy, on the 5th of October 1813—After the Defeat and Capture of the Right Division of the Army, under Major General Proctor.

To Whom paid For What Service Amount £ S D Commissariat Department 41 Vouchers Sundry persons Flour, fresh Beef, Cattle, Salt Pork, pease, Indian Corn, Wheat, Rye, and Whisky and for boating, Cartage and Butchering, Laborers wages, and other charges of

Transport &c &c from 25th June to 24th Sept 1813, inclusive 3,876 Ignace Cliche Baking Biscuit 32 16 Gabriel Godfrey1 116 cords of wood (for the Barr'k Depart) 72 10 Quarter Master General's Department Sundry persons Transport of Baggage of Cann Lt. Dragoons 46 do do do do & Officers & Seamen 177 Henry Berthetel Two Waggons at £20 each 40 Francis La Balaine Ferrying Troops &c Two months pay 12 10 Indian Department H.J. Hunt Goods furnished for the Indians 9 La Croix & Bombonney do do do 866 49 Vouchers Currency 5 s 5,131 16

1 Godfrey and Hunt were men of consideration in Detroit. “Berthetel” should read Berthetel; also a well known citizen.

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Amounting to Five thousand One Hundred and thirty one pounds, sixteen shillings, currency 5 s.

Burlington Heights 27th Decr. 1813

Robt Reynolds D. A. C. S.

I do certify upon oathe that the within statement is correct to the best of my Recollection and belief and the Amount Five thousand, one Hundred and thirty one pounds, sixteen shillings currency) was received from Deputy Assistant Commissary General Gilmore, and actually expended in paying for the supplies furnished and other incidental charges for the public service, at the post of Detroit as specified in the statement conformable to the Duties of my office—And I certify that the Vouchers were actually, and (I believe) unavoidably lost, together with other Commissariat Accounts, after the defeat of the Right Division of the Army, owing to the Waggon in which they were sent from the Moravian Town, having fallen into the Hands of the Enemy.....

Robert Reynolds D. A. C. S.

Sworn before me at Burlington Heights this 29th Day of January 1814

Richard Beasley J. P.

I do certify on oath that the several sums specified in the within statement were actuall paid on Account of the public Service, either by me, or in my presence, and that I believe the statement correct.

John B. Askin 1 Comr's Clerk

Sworn before me at this 12th day of Febry 1814

1 John B. Askin, commissary's clerk, was a member of the Essex militia; served in the commissary department of Proctor's army, son of John Askin Jr.

Richard Hall

[C 119-p 249]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SECRETARY FREER

(*War—1812*)

York February 14th 1814

Sir

I have the honor to acquaint you, for the information of his Excellency, the Commander of the Forces, that I have just received intelligence from the River Thames, of the Capture by the Enemy of Lieut. Col: Baby, Assistant Quarter Master General, and Captain Brigam, of the Militia, in that neighbourhood. The Enemy appeared, on Monday the 31st Ultimo, in some force at Delaware; and made prisoners of Captain Springer, and a small guard of Militia, posted at (Westbrooks), for the security of his 490 property, he, (Westbrook) having gone over to the Enemy.— Westbrook1 was with the Enemy; and before they retired, he

burnt his buildings himself—It was said they were to proceed to Port Talbot; but, it was imagined, they would not carry their intentions into effect.

1 For a biographical sketch of Capt. Andrew Westbrook, see note, page 589, where Drummond styles him, “traitor.”

I have this day received information from a respectable person, who had been specially employed in collecting intelligence in the neighbourhood of Presque Isle, &c. He says, there are six large and three small vessels at that place, and that their two largest are at Put in Bay; where a Block house has been erected for their defence. One of these latter vessels was to have been removed to Malden for repair; and is supposed to be there at present.

It was reported, that if the reinforcements, expected at Detroit, should arrive in time, that a strong body of the enemy is to move in the direction of Oxford, by the River Thames; at which time also another force is to cross the River Niagara above the Falls, for the purpose of forming a juncture and Cooperating, with that from Detroit.—

About two thirds of the inhabitants in the neighbourhood of Buffaloe are desirous, it is thought of peace, the remaining third declare their determination to cross again into Canada, and burn and destroy everything within their reach.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient Humble servant Gordon Drummond Lt. General

Lieut Freer &c &c &c

[C 682-p 111.]

SECRETARY FOSTER TO MAJ. GEN. RIALL

(*War—1812*)

Head Quarters Upper Canada

Sir

I am commanded by Lieut Genl Drummond to acknowledge the receipt of your letter to his Honor, transmitting a report relative to the advance of a body of the Enemy to Delaware, and the outrage committed in the burning of the house and barn of Mr. Westbrook at that place, and in the forcible seizure of Mr. Bringham and Mr. Springer, two of its most respectable 491 inhabitants from thence. These two gentlemen tho: not in arms were taken from the bosoms of their families and the peaciable enjoyment of their properties, and together with Mr. Baby shamefully and inhumanly, tied with cords until it was found convenient to remove them with the American party to an unjust imprisonment. Such conduct being totally subversive of the customs, and usages, of war, amongst civilized nations, and being inclined to believe that it is not intended to be followed up by the Government of the U. States, having recently received the copy of a communication from M. Genl. Wilkinson, disclaiming such a system, The Lieut Genl. cannot suffer it to pass without expressing his most decided disapprobation of it, I am therefore commanded to request that you be pleased to direct Lieut. Col: Stewart, to send a flag of truce to B Genl. Cass or the officer commanding the United States Force at Detroit to request that the gentlemen before mentioned be immediately returned to their homes, and an assurance on the part of His Honor, that if such conduct be again persisted in, the most full and ample retaliation must unavoidably be the result, as well on the Detroit frontier as every other point, when an opportunity may offer.

You will be pleased to direct Lt. Col. Stewart to permit Captain Rowe of the United States Militia to return to his home for although his House contained several stand of arms and some ammunition yet he was not himself in force, at the time of his apprehension, and was unnecessarily brought to this side of the water. Mr Blodget apprehended under very suspicious circumstances must be forwarded with the papers found upon him to York

I have the honor &c (Signed) C. Foster Military Secretary

Major General Riall &c &c &c

[C 682-p 149.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SECRETARY FREER

(*Indians*)

York Feb. 16th 1814.

Sir ,

I have the honor to acquaint you, for the information of His Excellency, the Commander of the Forces, that the Indian Chiefs of the Western Tribes whose names are herewith enclosed, together with the late Tecumseth's 492 Sister & Son & about twenty six of the young Warriors, who could not be restrained from accompanying them, have arrived here; and are to proceed immediately on their visit to His Excellency to Quebec.

I have afforded them every accommodation, and supplied Captain Elliott, who conducts them, with money and Letters (for assistance on their route) to Major general Stovin at Kingston & Major general de Rottenburg at Montreal.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient humble Servant Gordon Drummond Lt. general.

Lieut. Freer Mil'y Secy. &c. &c. &c.

[C 25-p 217.]

Enclosure

Library of Congress

Names of the Chiefs of the Western Nations who go to Quebec.

Chippewas

Ottawas

Saakies

Foxes

Kikapoos

Delawares

Munseys

Six Nations

Winibiegoe

Kishkiwabik

Naiwash

Mitass

Walisseka Kenailounak

Waikitchai

Pamamai

John Gray Wabackweela or White Horn

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Ounagechtai Twalwa or Isaac Peters

Wassasskum

And Techkumthai's Sister & Son of the Shawanese.

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

York , February 19th 1814

(*Secret*)

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's letter of the 8th Inst:.

Your Excellency will have already perceived, by my letter of the 3d Instant, that, with very great reluctance I have found it totally impracticable, 493 from the lateness of the season, and the unusually mild weather during the entire of this Winter, to make an attempt, with any reasonable hope of success, against the Enemy's Vessels, upon Lake Erie, and their Force at Detroit.1

1 Explanatory of the abandonment of the plans to capture Detroit, and the hope of burning the two American war vessels in winter quarters at Put-in-bay.

The observations contained in Your Excellency's letter of the 29th Ultimo have been realized. And I have been most fully and most amply justified in the reluctant decision, I made, at that time, by the present state of the weather.—For the last Four days past, the thaw has been so considerable, that many of the oldest inhabitants of this Province, which at all times differs so much in its climate from the Lower one, are almost induced to

believe, that, even at this Early period, the winter is fast breaking up—The Snow has been hitherto but very thin upon the ground; and the bordage upon Lake Erie never so strong or sound as to render a passage upon it to Put in Bay sufficiently safe.—

I, therefore, do not hesitate in declaring to Your Excellency, that any attempt against the Enemy's Vessels on Lake Erie, or their Force at Detroit, is, at present totally impracticable, as well from the unusual mildness of the weather as from the lateness of the season.

I have the honor &c &c Gordon Drummond Lt General

His Excelly Sir George Prevost Bt &c &c &c

[C 682-p 120.]

EARL BATHURST TO THE DUKE OF YORK

(*War—1812*)

War Department 21st February 1814

Sir

I do myself the Honor to submit to Your Royal Highness that the reports which I have received from Sir George Prevost upon the occurrences of the late Campaign in Canada, convey a very unfavourable Impression of the Conduct of Major General Proctor. The officer appears by the Documents which are before His Majesty's Government, to have occasioned in a great measure the Misfortune which befell the Body of Troops retreating under His Command before the American General Harrison, by his want of Military Judgment 494 and exertion. And further that the destruction of His Majesty's Naval Force upon Lake Erie, may be attributed to the order which Captain Barclay appears to have received from Major General Proctor, to sail with a force very inferior to that of the Enemy, altho', the Major General must have been aware that a reinforcement of seamen was to be

expected, and that there existed no necessity for exposing The British Flotilla to so great a Risk.

Under these circumstances, it is the opinion of his Majesty's Government, that a Court Martial should be holden upon Major General Proctor, in order that his conduct in the above instance may be strictly investigated; and I have to request Your Royal Highness would be pleased to address such Instructions as may be thought necessary to Lieutenant General Sir George Prevost in order that no time may be lost in bringing the said Major General Proctor to trial before a General Court Martial

I have the honor to be &c &c (Signed) Bathurst

His Royal Highness The Duke of York K. G. &c &c &c

[C 682-p 132.]

THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Horse Guards 22d Feby 1814

Sir

In compliance with the Decision of His Majesty's Government, as communicated in the enclosed, Copy of a Letter from the Secretary of State, I have to desire that, with Your earliest convenience after the receipt of this Despatch, you will be pleased to assemble a General Court Martial for the investigation of major General Proctor's conduct in the execution of the service entrusted to Him by your orders.1

1 See appendix.

The detailed circumstances connected with the conduct of the Major General's command in the instances alluded to by Lord Bathurst, must be so well known to yourself, that charges from this Country could not so effectually embrace the object of the investigation as if framed under your knowledge and discretion;—I have therefore to desire that, upon the grounds stated in the letter from The Secretary of State, you will cause such charges to be preferred against Major General Proctor as may appear to you calculated to 495 meet the demands of the Public Service, and to give the officer an opportunity of vindicating His Character.

I am Sir Yours Frederick Commander in Chief

Lieut. Genl. Sir George Prevost Bt & K. B. &c &c &c

[C 682-p 135.]

LIEUT. BINDER TO SECRETARY FREER

(*War—1812*)

Kingston Feby 25th 1814

Sir

Understanding you are appointed Prize Agent for the capture of Detroit &c. I beg leave to acquaint you that on the 18th of August 1812 I was sent under the command of Capt. Chambers 41st Regt. to the Miami River where we captured from the Enemy the stores named in the margin1 which I delivered into the store of Commissary Gilmore at Amherstburg.

1 69 Barrels Pork

19 do Flour

6 do Whisky

The purport of this application is to know whether the above could be included in the Capitulation of Detroit having been taken subsequently and under a separate command and when captured entirely by the rapid movements we made which prevented their destruction by the enemy being not like the stores &c taken from Captain Brush at the River Raisin which—an informed are included.—

Your early answer will oblige us in my opinion Capt Chambers Party alone has a right to share the above.

I have the honor to be Sir Your obedt huml servt B. Binder 2 Lieut. 41st Regt.

2 Benoit Bender, who was engaged in the battle of the River Raisin Jan. 22nd, 1813.

Noah Freer Esqr Quebec.

[C 695-p 29.]

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CAPTAIN BULLOCK TO SECRETARY FREER

(*War—1812*)

Fort Michilimackinac 26th Feby 1814

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 12th ulto: (Received on the evening of the 23d Inst:) acquainting me by directions of Lieutenant General Drummond that a quantity of Provisions had been sent to Notawasaque Bay and a further quantity was

about to be sent to Penetanguishene Bay destined for this Post, which Provisions we are much in want of.

In reply to the information required by the General, I am sorry to say that our Resources here are very few, and in that, of the article of provisions almost consumed; at the time I received the account of the Retreat of the Right Division from Amherstburg, the Government provision was nearly exhausted, there being but sixty eight pounds of salt meat in store, and Flour only sufficient to serve the small garrison for one month.—Amherstburg being the Depot from whence this Post has been always supplied, and the late season of the year rendering any supply from York very precarious—I immediately turned my mind to find out what resources there were on the Island, and in its vicinity, and I directed Mr. Bailey of the Commissariat Department to proceed without loss of time to the small settlements in the Neighbourhood for that purpose, and to purchase every species of Provisions he could procure, both on the island and places adjacent, which he did at most exorbitant prices, and on which we have been existing since October.—the proportion of Animal Food purchased, was so small, that I found it necessary on the 1st November, to reduce the ration of Beef to half a pound per day, and since, on the 25th Decmr, to limit the issue of meat to four days in the week, at the above rate—so that the troops &c might have a small proportion of that food as long as possible,—and which they will have until about the middle of the ensuing month.—We must then have recourse to Indian Corn and Fish—of the latter we have been fortunately successful in obtaining a good supply, and on which we must exist until Provisions can be sent up:—The number of Boats &c I can send to Notawasaque and Penetanguishan Bay in the ensuing spring to assist in bringing the supply's &c will be—2 Batteaux, 2 large Birch Canoes, and a *Keel* Boat,—There is no clothing of any description in store, and I send herewith Returns of what is wanted—also a state of the garrison and a nominal List of officers—The men have been paid to the 24th January, except those on command at the Island of St Josephs and Green Bay.—The number of Indians immediately about us are but few and not exceeding 497 Forty.—this being their Hunting season, they are employed in that avocation far back in the woods;

—I expect numbers here early in the spring—they appear to be well disposed towards us—nor have I heard of any that have attached themselves to the American Govert,—except a few of the Saguinas, Residing at Saguina Bay on the south side of the Huron—about 150 miles from hence.—I have not been able to obtain any information respecting the Enemy's *vessels* , none of them appeared on Lake Huron last fall, nor have I been able to collect any intelligence from Detroit, notwithstanding I have offered a considerable sum for that purpose:—I shall pay close attention to the works, Picketting &c of the Fort, and my exertions will not be wanted in keeping this Post in the best state of Defence;—Please to inform General Drummond, that Robert Dickson Esqr. Agent & Superintendent to the Western Indians, writes me from Green Bay (on the West side of Lake Michigan) that he intends being here as early as possible in the spring with about six hundred warriors, and one hundred white people of every description—the consumption of provisions will of course be very great, and should the people arrive previous to the intended supply I dread the consequence.

I have the honor to be &c &c &c (sgnd) Richd Bullock Capt 41st Regt

A true copy Noah Freer Mility secty—

Captain Loring Aid de Camp & & & York

[C 682-p 227]

MR. ELLIOTT TO COL STEWART

(*War—1812*)

Delaware March 4th 1814

Sir ,

I have this day had a meeting with the Indians, on the subject of carrying a quantity of ammunition to their friends within the American Territory. The result is that they refuse to proceed with the ammunition1 on the ground that our regular troops do not advance further than the 63

1 Indians grown circumspect, realizing the American power, and so far from being eager for the war path will not accept the gift of ammunition.

498 Settlements on the River Thames, and of course would be of no use in protecting their friends, in the enemie's country. The Americans might hear of these supplies being sent to the Indians & the consequence would be fatal, perhaps to their whole Tribes—They would therefore rather suffer for want of ammunition, than endanger themselves or their families —

I am &c [signed] M. Elliott

To Col. Stewart

[C 682-p 190.]

ENSIGN MILLS TO COL. STEWART

(*War—1812*)

Long Wood March 4th 1814

Sir ,

I beg leave to acquaint you, that this afternoon, about 5 o'clock, the Party, commanded by Captain Basden,1 of the 89th Regt., came up with the Enemy, in force of nearly 500 men; and, after an action of an hour and a half, in which I am concerned to state our Loss is very considerable, the Troops were withdrawn, in consequence of the great superiority

of the Enemy's number. I have the satisfaction to assure you, every man did his duty, and that we retired in perfect good order—

1 See appendix.

I have the honor to be Sir [signed] F. Mills 2 Ensign 89th

2 F. Miles; later lieutenant; wounded at Lundy's Lane, July 25th, 1814.

Captain Stewart &c &c &c Royal Scots

[C 682-p 182.]

RETURN

Return of Officers , non-commissioned officers, and Rank & File, Killed, Wounded and Missing, in action with the Enemy on the 4th of March 1814

Royal Scots' Light Company

One Captain, Nine Rank & File killed—

One Lieutenant, 3 Serjeants, 31 Rank & File wounded—One Bugler—Missing—

89th Light Company

One Lieutenant, Three Rank & File, Killed.—

One Captain, one Serjeant, & 7 Rank & File wounded—

Volunteer Pigot wounded & taken Prisoner.—

Loyal Kent Volunteers

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One Lieutenant, one Serjeant & Five Rank & File Wounded.—

Names of Officers killed & wounded.

Captain D. Johnston Royal Scots; Killed

Lieut P. Grame 89th Regt. Do

Captain Basden 89th Regt. Wounded

Lieut A. Macdonald Royal Scots. Do

(signed) A. Stewart1 Capt Royl. Scots Lieut. Colonel London District

1 Difficult to clear up this officer's identity from the various Stewarts in the service—captains, majors, and lieutenant colonels. Probably the “Col. Stewart” of the Royal Scotts, commanding a brigade since Aug. 1813.

Fourteen Mile Creek 5th March 1814

[C 682-p 188.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

York March 5th 1814

Sir

I have the honor to transmit to Your Excellency a letter I received enclosed from Colonel Talbot, reporting, that the Enemy had again advanced up the Thames, and crossed over

to Point Aux Pins, 36 miles above Port Talbot, on Lake Erie, where they destroyed the settlement.

The inhabitants of Port Talbot, and upon the Port Talbot road, are in the greatest state of alarm; it being reported, that it is the intention of the Enemy to lay waste the entire of the settlements in that vicinity; where, if such be the case, not less than 200 families will fall a sacrifice to this infamous species of uncivilized war fare;—The Enemy were accompanied by a man named Corbett, who some time since made his escape from York Gaol.

When at Delaware, I directed Major Genl. Riall to return a Captain of Militia (Rowe) who had been brought over the River Sinclair, by Lieut. McGregor's Kent Volunteers, as he was, at the time, not in arms, but in the peaceable occupation of his house, to Brigadier General Cass, at Detroit, 500 with a Flag of Truce; which also conveyed a strong remonstrance from me against the incendiary system, which appears likely to prevail to the West-ward, and more particularly against the burning of Westbrook's House, & offices, at Delaware, headed by himself, and the seizure of Messrs. Brigham, & Springer, from thence, who, with Lieut Colonel Baby and another, were shamefully tied with cords, until the Enemy found it convenient to carry them off.

Your Excellency may, perhaps, judge it advisable to make a representation on these subjects to the Commander in Chief, of the United States Army, or to the American Government.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellencys most obedient humble servant Gordon Drummond Lt. General

His Excellency Sir George Prevost, Bart &. &. &.

[C 682-p 157.]

LIEUT. COL. BUTLER1 TO MAJ. GEN. RIALL

1 See appendix.

(*War—1812*)

Detroit (M. T.) 5 March 1814

Sir

By the return of Lieut Jackson of the Royal Scotts, who has been the Bearer of your flag of truce, from Delaware (U. C.) to this place, I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22d ulto., accompanied by a transcript of the communication made to you by Lieut General Drummond on the day preceding relative to the burning of Mr. Westbrooks barn and house, and to the Capture of Messr. Baby, Springer, and Bringham by a detachment of troops from my Command at Detroit.

In the communication made to you by Lieut: Genl. Drummond, he has fallen into some errors it will be my duty to correct. The first complaint exhibited against the conduct of the detachment, is for, “the outrage committed in burning the House & Barn of Mr. Westbrook” When it shall be known that Mr. Westbrook, was a man born within the states, and retaining the attachment for his native country which a citizen ought to feel, and for which since the commencement of the present war, he has suffered from 501 Your Government, oppression, imprisonment, and persecution, in fact has been virtually outlawed; one is at a loss to imagine the source whence the extreme sensibility in regard to this mans rights, should be so suddenly felt and displayed. “But when it is added that Mr. Westbrook (who was fugitive from your limits) accompanied the detachment and counted its protection in the removal of his family from Delaware, and that he was himself the principal actor in the “ *Outrage* ” complained of, it is presumed that no repitition of this complaint will be heard.

With regard to Col. Baby a few words may suffice, as his release if intended to be demanded is so faintly urged, that we see at once, his name has been used merely to augment the list. Col: Baby who bears a commission in Your service as his papers prove,

was taken in arms and under circumstances of such suspicion as it regarded his designs, that I should have felt justified in using much more vigorous measures towards Col: Baby than were adopted, he was however immediately sent on to Head Quarters to Maj Genl Harrison.

As it regards the Capture of Capt Springer and Mr. Bringham, I exercised the discretion vested in me by my Government, who have confided to that discretion an important command, nor have I by that act in any wise violated a personal right, or contravened a General principal, but what is fully justified by the Law of nations and the usages of war.

It is presumable that Genl Drummond is well advised of the Usages and Customs of War, and notwithstanding he speaks so confidently on the subject in the despatch, which he communicated to you on the 21st ulto: and which you enclosed me a copy, I am still authorized in saying, that the sentiments expressed by the General in relation to the right of capture and detention, of your subjects, conflicts with the best opinions on national Law, and is moreover, directly opposed to the conduct of your own Commanders, whilst the Michigan Teritory was occupied by the Troops of Your Government.—Nay—in the very communication to which I have just alluded, he acknowledges that a detachment of your force has made prisoner of Mr Blodget within those limits that have submitted to our army and now hold him in confinement. This Mr. Blodget is a citizen of the U. States, in no employment of its Government either in a civil or military capacity, (not even at this time incorporated with a Militia Company) but engaged merely as a clerk to a mercantile firm in Detroit to settle accounts and to make purchases for their individual advantage from citizen on the River Thames, with whom this person had some previous transactions in the way of their business.—Yet he is seized and without other reason offered for his detention, than his being “apprehended under very suspicious circumstances,” 502 he has been ordered to York. With such a case as this before you the demand for a liberation for your own subjects, comes with a very ill grace.—In the capture of Cap: Springer I was justified from the Circumstance of his having commanded a Militia Company, in your service and having been actively engaged against us.—The other prisoner Bringham I

had received information against, and information of character, that induced me to decide on his removal from his residence.—There exists as it relates to him at this time, no more than so much as relates to Blodget, I shall very readily therefore discharge the one, when the other is set at liberty. Cap: Springer is with Col: Baby now at Head Quarters, Genl Harrison will decide on their Cases.

I could have wished that Lieut General Drummond had avoided in his Letter (as it seemed intended for my inspection) the harsh epethets of “shameful and inhuman” applied to the treatment which Messrs Baby and Springer and Bringham received,—neither of these persons would make such a charge, and I am warranted in saying, the expressions were unmerited. It merely would have comported better with the attitude assumed by the General in that letter to have abstained from language that has but one character.

With regard to the threat of retaliation which General Drummond has permitted himself to use.—I have but one remark to make.—He is altogether a stranger to the American character, if he supposed for a moment it would avail him in any purpose he intended to or intimidate an officer from his duty,—We are appaled neither by the scene on the River Raisin, or the Niagara Frontier.

I am &c sgned H. Butler Lt. Col: U. S. Army Comg Michigan Teritory & its dependencies

Major Genl. P. Riall &c &c &c

[C 682-p 151.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

York March 5th 1814

Sir ,

I have the honor to report to Your Excellency, that I availed myself of an opportunity lately to visit that part of the District, which lies to the 503 westward, from Burlington, as far as Delaware Town on the River Thames, and Long Point and Vicinity on the shore of Lake Erie:—

I was much concerned to find that part of the country bordering on the River Thames, entirely drained of its resources; so much so in fact, as to make it almost amount to an impossibility to support an adequate force for its protection, without drawing all supplies for that purpose from the neighbourhood of Long Point.

As, however, this latter country can furnish a tolerable quantity of Flour, and a few cattle, and as the only approaches from the Lake Shore, all unite nearly at one point, (about 20 miles from Turkey Point;) I propose posting a considerable force, provided I am supplied with the means of so doing, in the vicinity of Mr. Culver's House, near the junction of the roads alluded to: from whence a small party may be detached to Oxford, to watch the road from the westward; and small guards posted at Turkey Point, Mrs. Ryerson's and Dover—

I conceive the 100th Regt. will be most advisable to employ on this occasion; as that part of this corps, stationed there before I am much gratified in stating, conducted itself, collectively, and individually, in the most orderly and correct manner, during its service there; very widely different, I am concerned to say, from the Light Companies of the Royals, and the 89th Regiment; whose behaviour has been that, more of a plundering banditti, than of British soldiers, employed for the protection of the country and its inhabitants. Two Light Guns, and the Troop of 19th Light Dragoons, from Kingston, may likewise prove of service in this direction; as the country consists of Plains, but thinly scattered with Trees, except in a few places, almost to the borders of the Grand River.

By this River it is true the Enemy might endeavour to advance into the interior; but the distance from the Lake is so excessive, that even supposing them daring enough to

hazard such an attempt, intelligence of their motions would arrive in sufficient time to prevent the retreat of our force being cut off, prior to its crossing the Grand River.

I have directed Captain Stewart of the Royals, to make a diversion with his and the Light Company of the 89th Regt and the Kent Volunteers under Lieut McGregor, towards the mouth of the Thames; for the purpose of covering the passage of the River Sinclair by about 200 Indians whom I have sent to their brethren in the westward, with an ample supply of Powder & Ball.

I was not so much surprised as I regretted to find when at Burlington that Mr. Dance the Ass. Commy General had scarcely procured at this late Season of the Winter any quantity of Flour, the future consumption of which it 504 appears to me, instead of being at this moment only contracted for, should have been long since safely lodged in the Commissariat Magazine. The favorable season for transport has been permitted to pass; the difficulty & expence will now be consequently considerably encreased. I am thoroughly convinced that such conduct would not have been pursued by any other person, in that Department, possessed of the smallest spark of energy, activity or genuine zeal in His Majesty's service. And so little of either does it appear to me that Lt. Dance possesses, that I firmly believe that it would prove of the most beneficial consequences to the army in general & to the Right Division in particular if his place were supplied by an officer of more energy & talent.

I beg leave again to draw Your Excellency's attention to the very great want of money in this Province, Mr. Dance informed me that a supply of £30,000 would scarcely more than suffice, to discharge the demands upon him & carry on the service.

I am extremely concerned to state to Your Excellency that I seldom entered a house to the westward, where the claims of Individuals for Cattle and Provisions furnished, taken and destroyed by the Troops and Indians in the retreat of the Division from Detroit were not numerous;1 as well as for Provisions furnished by Individuals, principally in the

neighborhood of Long Point & Port Talbot, on the authority of Major General Brock & Colonel Talbot; which have not as yet been paid, and which in consequence is the cause of the greatest discontent, & in many instances of persons with-holding their produce altogether from sale until their former demands are satisfied.

1 Proctor's demoralized troops and Indians must needs live off the country while hurrying away from Harrison.

The roads in the Province have been so much neglected since the Commencement of the war, that during wet weather, in some parts, they are become totally impassable; I am induced therefore to submit to Your Excellency's favorable consideration the necessity of a communication being afforded by water, between the different posts on Lake Ontario & a recommendation that you will be pleased to sanction the building of two light & fast sailing vessels for that purpose.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellency's most humble most obedt servant Gordon Drummond Lt. Genl.

His Excellency Sir Geo. Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 682-p 163.]

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EARL BATHURST TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Downing Street 5th March 1814

No. 60.

Sir

Captain Cochrane has delivered to me Your Dispatches to No 126 inclusive & I have lost no time in laying before the Prince Regent the gratifying intelligence which they contain.

Although His Royal Highness has on many occasions had reason to express his approbation of the conduct of the army under your command, yet His Royal Highness can refer to none in which the skill & judgment of the officers & the gallantry & Discipline of the men has been more conspicuously displayed than in the late operations on the Niagara Frontier; the results of these new exertions made by the army in that Quarter will be to give more immediate security to the Upper Province, not only by repelling the Enemy to a greater distance from the Frontier but by giving increased facility to the formation of a preponderating naval force upon Lake Erie.

You will not fail to convey to Lt. Genl. Drummond, to Major Generals Riall & Vincent and to all the officers & men of the regular force & militia engaged, the high approbation which His Royal Highness the Prince Regent has expressed of their services on that occasion, and you will equally express to Capt. Norton & the Indians under his command His Royal Highness's Gracious acknowledgement of their exertions in the common cause.

His Royal Highness entirely approves of your having retaliated on the Inhabitants of the United States the harsh measures which the American Government had adopted with respect to the population of that part of the Canadas, which had been in their temporary occupation—You will not fail to inflict a similar retaliation whenever the conduct of the Enemy shall render it necessary. It is however the anxious wish of His Royal Highness that the example which has so properly been made of the destruction of Lewis Town, Black Rock & Buffalo may be sufficient to deter the Enemy from the Repetition of outrage so much at variance with the practice of war as carried on between civilized nations, for nothing can be more painful to His Royal Highness than to be under the necessity of extending to unoffending Inhabitants the aggravated miseries to which such a system, if persevered in on the part of the Enemy must infallibly give rise.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient humble servant Bathurst

To Lieut General Sir Geo. Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 682-p 176.] 64

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EARL BATHURST TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

No 61.

Sir ,

In reply to your Dispatch no. 126, in which you urge in the most earnest manner the necessity of a Reinforcement of Troops being sent to Quebec early in the approaching Spring—I am happy to have in my power to acquaint you that the Expectation which I held out to you in my Dispatch of the 13th August of placing at your Disposal Four Regiments by the Spring of this year is on the point of fulfillment—1

1 See appendix.

The 70th Regt. which was one of those specified in that dispatch has long since been placed at your disposal—

By a letter from Sir J. Sherbrooke it appears that the remaining companies of the 98th reached Halifax on the 15th of December & will have therefore long since supplied the deficiency occasioned by the previous removal of the 2nd Battalion of the King's Regiment.

The 90th Regt. was expected to embark at Barbadoes about the middle of December—the Transports having arrived there on the 10th of that month & the regiment having been long waiting in expectation of their arrival—

The 7th Batt. of the 60th & the 16th Regiment (which latter has been substituted for the 2nd Battalion of the 93rd) are now embarking at Guernsey & Cork in order to proceed with the first Fleet—The former will relieve the 90th at Halifax & the latter will proceed in company with the 90th to Quebec—

The four Regiments which will therefore be actually placed under your orders, are the 70th the 2nd Batt of the Kings—The 90th & the 16th—

The four which I had originally intended for Canada & which are so stated in my Dispatch of the 13th August were the 70th the 90th the 98th & the 2nd Batt of the 93rd—

The change which has taken place in the regiments destined for the service has arisen rather from your having anticipated the arrangements which were in progress or from the desire of His Majesty's Government to place at your disposal such Regiments as were most effective.

In addition to this Statement which will I trust sufficiently remove the erroneous impression under which you labor with respect to my dispatch No. 41—I have only to assure you that every exertion will be made hereafter, as it has been hitherto, to place under your command a respectable force, & that if the Reinforcement which you receive shall not always correspond with your wishes—it is not because His Majesty's Government undervalue 507 the importance of the Provinces or are indifferent to their defence, but because the demand for Reinforcements in other Quarters, where interests no less important are to be considered, renders it impossible to detach for your support so considerable a force as under other circumstances would be allotted to you.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient humble Servant Bathurst

Lieut General Sir George Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 682-p 170.]

THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Horse Guard , 5th March 1814.

Sir ,

I have to acknowledge Your letter of the 10th of Jany. stating that Fort George was again in the possession of His Majesty's Troops & that the American Fort of Niagara had been carried by assault on the 19th December last; and to assure you that the conduct of the Troops employed upon this gallant occasion, have afforded me the utmost satisfaction and it is particularly gratifying to me that the service in question has merited the utmost approbation of the Prince Regent whose sence of the gallantry of the Troops & the Judicious management which directed them, I am commanded to communicate to you.

I shall be glad to submit to His Royal Highness the names of the officers who, being eligible for Brevet promotion, have so far distinguished themselves upon this service as to merit promotion of that nature—But as in your recommendations the line is not sufficiently explicit, I have to desire that you will be pleased to submit the names of those whom you would wish to recommend for such distinction, mentioning at the same time the particulars of the good conduct upon which your recommendation is founded—

I am Sir Yours Frederick Commander in Chief

Lt. Genl. Sir Geo. Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c

[C 682-p 174.]

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CAPT. STEWART TO MAJ. GEN. RIALL

(*War—1812*)

Delaware , March 6th 1814

Sir ,

I have to acquaint you that the enemy retreated precipitately from their position about 8 o'clock on the night of the 4th instant, down the river Thames. As the service for which the advance of the Troops was intended, has been frustrated by the Indians refusing to proceed with the ammunition and no probability of our being able to come up with the Enemy as they had gained 12 hours march of us, I have withdrawn the Troops to this place, where we will remain waiting your further Instructions.1 I enclose Col. Elliots' letter on the subject of the Indians refusing to proceed with the ammunition. Our wounded are to be removed tomorrow morning to Oxford as there is accommodation at that place.

1 This was one of the scouting expeditions of Col. Butler, from Detroit, heretofore mentioned.

I have the honor &c (signed) Alex Stewart , Capt Rl. Scotts

Maj. Genl. Riall Comg. Rt. Div.

[C 682-p 191.]

LIEUTENANT LE BRETON TO SECRETARY FOSTER

(*War—1812*)

Delaware 8th March 1814

Dear Sir

As the report of our unfortunate and truly lamentable expedition has reached the general, you are no doubt acquainted with the circumstances, shall therefore forbear making any comments and only send you a sketch of the ground as nearly as I could take it on the spot, the American enclosure is only a brush wood fence, with an abittis on the outside to prevent a charge, no defence in front but almost inaccessible except by the Road.

I regret very much not being authorized to raise a company since I am here I might have got several men McGregor's Company are dissatisfied with him and are about leaving him. Three of them have engaged in Colemans Dragoons and the remainder wish to join Caldwells Rangers. I have seen several persons from the River Thames and Amherstburg, who all say that the inhabitants are anxiously expecting us and a great many ready to join us.— The Wyndotts or Huron Indians are also at the back of the 509 Lake settlement anxiously expecting us, however, I fear our expedition to the westward is now completely frustrated. In consequence of Colonel Elliott being sick and the want of Indian Chiefs, the Indians who came up latterly are all returned back to the Head of Lake Ontario.

I beg you will be pleased to mention to his Honor Lt. General Drummond that I have endeavoured to obtain all the Information in my power respecting a company of artificers and am well convinced that a corps same terms with sappers and miners could be raised in a very short time, A man arrived from the River Thames to day says that 500 Americans had crossed from Detroit to come to the assistance of those engaged on the 4th Inst. I have learnt that the first party came out with the intention of going to Port Talbot, they had brought with them 3 Field Pieces which they were obliged to leave at the Round O. (Rondeau. Lake Erie.)

Oxford 10th March 1814

Not having had an opportunity of sending the foregoing, I have now to acquaint you with our retreat yesterday morning. Intelligence was received that the Enemy was advancing and that their van-guard had reached the last settlements on the River Thames. In compliance with General Rialls orders we have retreated to this place, In case the Enemy should advance I think we may make a good defence here as we have an excellent Position in our Front1 —we have lost 5 or 6 of our wounded men some are badly wounded it is thought that McGregor will lose his arm, several of his Company are gone off they are now reduced to about 30 men.

1 Precautions against the possible return of Col. Butler's expedition.

I remain very respectfully Dr. Sir Your very obedt Servt Jno. L. Breton 2

2 Lieut. John Le Breton; deputy assistant quartermaster general to Drummond's military secretary, Capt. Foster. App. note, p. 436.

Capt. Foster My Secty.

[C 682-p 233.]

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REFERENCE. A The Road leading from Delaware B The American enclosure C The bottom of the Ravine where the British were killed. D Ground which commands the enclosure not occupied by our Troops and very thinly wooded every where else the wood is very thick

War 1812 [C 682-p 232.]

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LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

York March 9th 1814

Sir

I have the honor to transmit to your Excellency the copy of a Report, received from Major General Riall, from Captain Stewart, of the Royal Scots Light Company, relative to an affair, which took place, in advance of Delaware Town, between the Detachment under his orders, and a body of the enemy from the westward.

I regret to state that our Loss has been considerable, in proportion to the numbers engaged; and that notwithstanding the daring gallantry displayed on the occasion, finding it impracticable to dislodge the enemy from the security of his breastworks, the troops were reluctantly withdrawn, after an action of an hour and a half.

It is reported that the Enemy has since retired from their position.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellency's Your most obedient humble Servant Gordon Drummond Lt. General

To Lieut General Sir George Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 682-p 186.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

York March 11th 1814

Sir ,

I have the honor to transmit to Your Excellency the copy of a letter from Capt. Stewart, of the Royal Scots Regiment to Maj. Genl. Riall, covering one from Col. Elliott of the Indian

Department; whereby your Excellency will perceive that the enemy retreated from their position, with much precipitancy, towards the mouth of the Thames, after the affair of the 4th Instant.

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My desire, to furnish such of the Indians, as remained to the westward, with Powder and Shot, has been frustrated, by the refusal of their brethren with us, to proceed with the supplies, without the advance of our Troops at the same time, and through apprehension for the safety of their friends and families, should a knowledge of the circumstance reach the Americans at Detroit.1

1 Marking the result of Col. M. Elliott's failure to persuade the Indians to resume the offensive in the direction of Detroit.

It is a matter of much gratification to me to learn, that your Excellency has been pleased to order the 103d Regiment to this Province—But as I have already mentioned to Your Excellency, that I propose stationing a strong force near Turkey Point for the defence of the approaches from the westward, and the Shore of Lake Erie, I consider it my duty to state, that, from every rational supposition of the direction of the efforts of the Enemy in the ensuing campaign, I am apprehensive I shall not have a sufficient disposable force to preserve the western part of the Province from Insult, unless Your Excellency be pleased to reinforce me with another Regiment, in addition to the 103d already ordered here; for Your Excellency must be fully aware, that it would be highly imprudent to reduce either of the Garrisons of Kingston or York, by a single man, after the Glengarry Light Infantry shall have left the former, for the Frontier, on the opening of the navigation; and it would be equally inconsiderate to permit the Post, and Depot, at Burlington, to remain without the protection, and support of a complete Battalion.

That the Right Division be supplied as observed upon in Your Excellency's letter of the 28th ultimo, from the magazines to be established previous to the opening of the ensuing

Campaign, I must beg to assure Your Excellency, is totally and absolutely impossible. The country is not furnished with the Requisite Resources— Even already has the scanty supply of Salt Pork on hand been obliged to be broke in upon. And I must again beg to assure Your Excellency, that I conceive it will be totally impossible for the Right Division to hold its ground, on the Niagara Frontier, without a very ample supply of Provisions from the Lower Province.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellency's most obedient humble servant Gordon Drummond Lt. Genl.

His Excellency Sir. Geo. Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 682-p 192.]

513

CAPT. STEWART TO MAJ. GEN. RIALL

(*War—1812*)

Oxford 11th March 1814

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th Inst at Delaware, and lost no time in retiring to this place with the Troops, where we arrived last night, leaving Capt. Caldwell with the Kent volunteers and Rangers at Putman's and an advance of an officer & 12 men at McMillans. I beg leave to state that the Indians joined at Delaware on the 3d the day before the Light companies marched, and that it was my wish they should move next morning. Col. Elliott reported that they were much fatigued, and would require a day's rest but that he would find a sufficient number to join Captain Caldwell; this party of twenty refused to march, which induced me to move forward the Light Companies on the 4th not only as a support to Capt. Caldwell, but as an incitement for the Indians to follow

and to enable me to carry the service, for which an advance was principally intended, into effect. I beg further to state that I did not consider the enemy in any force to make a stand, and that the party Capt. Caldwell fell in with must have been that which went to the Round O1 at Cranfield's, and I was supported in this opinion by the return of a trusty man of the Kent Volunteers, sent down the River Thames to give information, who reported that none of the Enemy were on the River. Little suspecting that an action would take place I remained behind to fix with Col. Elliott the day on which the Indians would take their departure to the westward with the ammunition, as my future movements must have depended on it, the result of which is already made known to you. I am happy to report that the wounded are doing well.

1 Rondeau on Lake Erie, Kent county, Ontario, 60 miles east of Detroit.

I have the honor &c &c (signed) Alex Stewart 2 Capt R. Scots

2 Same whose first report appears on pp. 498–9.

Maj. Gen. Riall &c. &c.

[C 682-p 208.]

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LIEUT. JACKSON TO CAPT. STEWART

(*War—1812*)

Oxford 12 March 1814

Sir

I beg leave to observe the reason just assigned for the detaining the Flag I carried to D'troit, was in consequence of the expedition then on the way from that Port, to act against

the detachment under your Command stationed at Delaware, as soon as Coln Butler the officer commanding at D'troit, received an account of the affair which happened near Delaware, he informed me he would be under the necessity of still detaining me from information he had just received which stated that a body of British Troops accompanied by a number of Indians were on their march towards Detroit or the Post on the opposite side. On expostulating as to the truth of his intelligence as mentioned—Colonel Butler mentioned there cou'd be no doubt whatever, as he had it direct and in the most speedy manner from the Council of those we employed (meaning Indians) about two hours after I met in Col Butlers quarters one of the western Indians employed by the British Government, whose features were to me quite familiar.

In the Course of my Conversation with Col Butler he frequently mentioned the excellence of the spies employed by him, and other officers of the United States Army and by way of illustration said he was informed of a conversation which happened at night in York some time ago, between Lieut: Genl. Drummond and other military men respecting the expedition to the westward, a communication which enabled him to prepare for the defence of D'troit, & he said given by a person, who sat in the next room, who from the door being open was afforded an opportunity of hearing all that had been said distinctly, he mentioned his spies being frequently at Burlington and every thing was known at Sackett Harbour as soon as resolved on at Kingston.

A party of Indians had arrived from Michilimackinac a few days before my arrival at D'troit Col: Butler said they were within two hours of taking Mr. Dickson the Indian chief, that however he was well acquainted with Mr. Dickson's Mission, that he thought the Fort at that place had been destroyed, and the troops retired, finding it to be otherwise he spoke as if something wou'd be attempted against that place. From every thing I cou'd learn, Lucen, Allen, Norton, Richardson & Son, all lately residing on the Thames, are the most daring, and useful spies employed by the Americans in this direction. The Troops at D'troit

are about 400 regulars and 150 Militia at Spring Wells (where Genl Brock crossed) 150 Militia at Malden, 250 Regulars, and Sandwich 150 Regulars.

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This is the strength of the Enemy's force as near as I cou'd learn of the Militia men at Detroit, 90 are mounted and use the long Country rifle,—The D'troit Fort has got an abattis on the Land side of the North and West faces, which were the only faces I cou'd see. Guns mounted in all the embrasures, and on the parapits two traveling 24 pounders.—The redoubt at Sandwich, is small, containing a small Barracks, and defended by an 8 or 10 inch picketing in the tops of which are large nails1

1 Showing that Lt. Jackson, of the Royal Scots, had his eyes open all the time he was at Detroit on his mission under a flag of truce.

I have the honor &c (sgd) Geo: Jackson Lt Royal Scots

Captain Stewart Royal Scots

[C 682-p 155.]

CAPT. STEWART TO MAJ. GEN. RIALL

(*War—1812*)

Oxford 12th March 1814.

Sir

I beg leave to report that Lieut. Johnson of my Company the bearer of the Flag of truce to Detroit returned last night with a letter addressed for you which is herewith enclosed, I also forward a report of Lt. Johnson to me detailing such circumstances as came within his notice while detained at Detroit, it appears that there are none of the Enemy on this side

Sandwich, I believe their force in the action on the 4th Inst. was not near so great as stated in Ens. Miles'es report, they came up by the Lake shore—joined the Mounted Riflemen at Crawfords at Point Aux pins and were to have moved on to Port Talbot from thence on the new road, which joins the principal one, at MacMillans, so as to gain the rear of our Devision at Delaware,—This plan was abandoned in consequence of the bad state of the roads,—I omitted to state in my letter of yesterdays date, that the place my letter of the 4th was dated from is fourteen miles in advance of Delaware.

I beg leave to state that the family of Cap. Springer who was carried off by the Americans from Delaware are reduced to the greatest necessity, for want of provisions and clothing, and no means of procuring any I therefore beg to recommend them as objects deserving the support of the Government.

I have the honor &c (Sgd) Alexr. Stewart Capt. Royal Scots

M. Genl. Riall &. &. &.

[C 682-p 154.]

516

CAPT. BASDEN TO CAPT. STEWART

(*War—1812*)

Oxford March 13th 1814

Sir ,

I take the earliest opportunity being a little recovered, to inform you of the circumstances which took place on the 4th Inst for the early information of Major General Riall Comg. of Right Division of the Army.

Having on the Evening of the 3d received your orders to march the next morning. I paraded in consequence & received further directions vizt—To move forward, support Capt. Caldwell's Detachment, and push on as far as Wards with the whole.—I moved on, found Capt. Caldwell with the whole of his party at the 14 Mile Creek, he had seen the Enemy that morning in numbers, supposed 150 or 200, drawn up in an irregular column, about 5 or 6 miles from his present position (the 14 Mile Creek). I here refreshed the men & waited a very long time in expectation of some Indians (conceiving that a party was following me) 5 only arrived, and it growing late in the day I proceeded, leaving Mr. Fraser of the Indian Dept with orders to Hurry on such Indians as might come up. On approaching the place where the Enemy had been before seen, it was observed by the smoke and some noise that they were occupying the same ground. I therefore made my dispositions for an immediate attack, it growing late, they were posted on the opposite side of a Ravine, on a high Bank close to the Road, & I thought I could perceive a slight Brush Wood Fence, thrown up, as I presumed, to obstruct the Road. The Kent Volunteers with the Rangers, I directed to tile through the woods to my Left, and by making an extensive circle, they were to post themselves in Rear of the Enemy, get as near as possible, not to fire a shot, but to sound a Bugle, whenever the position was properly secured, and they were prepared to advance—Mr. Fraser now arrived with about 23 Indians, these I stationed to Flank my Right and advance with the main Body—At the sound of the Bugle the Flank Comp moved on in open column of sections (the 89th Lt. comp. being weak, in Subdivisions) led by the Royals, with an advance from them—The Enemy commenced their fire immediately, on our appearnace, and when the head of the column had proceeded a short distance down the Hill, the firing from them the Enemy was so severe as to occasion a check, they however instantly cheered & rushed on, making for the Road on the opposite side, with the intention of carrying this Fence—however this was found impossible the ascent being so steep and slippery. I now desired the men to follow me & I moved in the Ravine to the Right, for some distance under an uncommon fire, on ascending and gaining the Top of the Bank. I was very much surprised to observe 517 another face of a work. I placed the men in extended order under cover of the trees, and the action was kept up with great

vigor till Dusk, when that of the Enemy became very feeble. I am now determined to send to the point on the Top of the Hill (from where the action commenced) for more men to strengthen the party I had then with me and on their arrival to strain the enemy's position agreeably to my first intention.

At the instant I received a severe wound in my thigh, and was under the necessity of going to the Rear; before I had proceeded far the enemy's fire had ceased—at this period only I received your orders to retire which order I forwarded to the officer comg. on the Field—A few minutes after I met yourself.

I have the honor to be Sir Your very humble obedient Servant Jas. L. Basden Capt. 89th Regt

Capt Stewart Royal Scots Comg &c. &c. &c.

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston March 21st 1814

Sir

I have the honor to enclose herewith, for Your Excellency's information, the copy of a letter, transmitted to me by Major Genl. Riall, from Captain Stewart, commanding the Royal Scots' Light Company, covering one from Lieutenant Jackson, of the same, the officer sent under a Flag of Truce to Detroit, together with the Answer of Col: Butler1 , of the United states Army, to the Communication from Major General Riall, of which Lieut: Jackson was the bearer.

1 For Butler's reply see pp. 500–1–2: Jackson's report pp. 514–15.

I likewise have the honor to enclose a copy of my letter to Major Genl Riall, directing a Flag of Truce to be sent to Detroit.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellency's Most obedient humble servant Gordon Drummond Lt General

His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bart &c &c &c

[C 682-p 225.]

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MAJ. DEANE TO MAJ. GEN. RIALL

(*War—1812*)

Oxford 21st March 1814

Sir

The following information I received this morning, from a gentleman of the name of Richardson who served as a medical officer on board our Fleet on Lake Erie, and has been a prisoner since that period; he is on his way to General Drummond.

Mr. Richardson states that he left Sandwich on Tuesday last, that at that time the Garrison of Detroit consisted of about 600 Men, the Garrison of Sandwich of 75, and that of Amherstburg of 120; that the Post of Amherstburg was to be evacuated, in a few days by order, as Mr. R. understood, from General Harrison. The Fort of Detroit is made very strong, and sandwich was also strengthened. The Garrisons were on half allowances of Flour for some time, it did not appear that there was any intention to make a movement this way; indeed the roads are now almost impassable. Another reason it was stated by Captain Holmes the commanding officer at Amherstburg to a Gentleman who gave the

information that all disposable force was collecting and to be collected at Presque Isle, for the purpose of making a descent at Long Point and attacking Burlington Heights

(Signed) Thos Deane Major R. Scots

M. General Riall

[C 682-p 283.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SECRETARY FREER

(*War—1812*)

Kingston March 22nd 1814

Sir

I have the honor to enclose herewith, for the information of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces, a letter from Capt. Bullock, commanding at Michilimackinac, on the state of that Post, and its vicinity.—

As I have not retained a copy of the enclosure, I request you will return it to me.—

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obediently humble servant Gordon Drummond Lt General

Lieutenant Freer Military Secretary &c &c &c

[C 682-p 231.]

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FROM LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND—UNADDRESSED

Kingston March 22nd 1814

Sir ,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th Instant and to acquaint you, for the information of His Excellency The Commander of the Forces, that I communicated the Instructions therein contained, relative to the supplies of Provisions, and Stores, to be thrown in to Fort Niagara, without delay, to Major General Riall, and to Assistant Commissary General Dance.

The arrangements, proposed for forwarding the reinforcements, and supplies, for the defense of Michilimackinac, have been carried into effect, with all the energy, I have much pleasure in remarking, and despatch, which was practicable.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most obedient humble Servant, Gordon Drummond Lt. General

Colonel Baynes Adg. Genl. &c. &c. &c.

[C 78-p 67.]

LIEUT. COL. HARVEY TO MAJ. GEN. RIALL

(*War—1812*)

Most Secret & Confidential

Deputy Adjutant General's Office Kingston 23d March 1814

Sir ,

Lieut General Drummond having had under his consideration, your Letter of the 10th of March desiring to be informed of his general Plan of Defence, as far as may be necessary

for your guidance in directing the operations of the Right Division, against the attempt which there is reason to expect, will be made by the Enemy on the Niagara Frontier, so soon as the season for operations commences—I have received the commands of the Lt. General to communicate to you the following observations and instructions.

The Lt. General concurs with you as to the probability of the Enemys acting on the offensive, as soon as the season permits. Having unfortunately no accurate information as to his Plans of attack, general defensive arrangements can alone be suggested.

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It is highly probable that independent of the Siege of Fort Niagara, or rather in combination with the attack on that Place, the Enemy will invade the District of Niagara by the Western Road, and that he may at the same time, land a force at Long Point and perhaps at Point Abino or Fort Erie. An attack of such a general and combined nature, if made as it doubtless will be in force, you can have no hope of successfully resisting by any other means, than a consentration of your whole force at Burlington or Ancaster, leaving for the moment the Garrisons of Fort Niagara & Fort George, to themselves and those means of defence, which it is expected, that they possess, and will most strenuously exert.

With your whole force thus concentrated, in an advantageous and an open Position the Lt. General has no apprehension of your not being equal or superior to any thing that the Enemy can bring against you—On the contrary if correct information of the Enemys movements be fortunately obtained, by you, in time to enable you to effect your own concentrative movements with that precipitation (that Rock which has so often been fatal to the success of our operations) Lt. General Drummond feels confident that notwithstanding the proverbial caution of General Harrison,1 an opportunity will be afforded you, of effecting by one action, the Defeat, Capture or Destruction, of a considerable part of the Enemy's disposable force.

1 See appendix.

It is clearly to be understood that the abandonment, even for a moment, by the Troops under your command, of their advanced position on the Frontier for the purpose of concentrating at Burlington, is a measure which the Lt. General would approve, only in the event clearly ascertained, of the actual advance of the Enemy in great Force from the Westward.

If the Enemy's principal Force be assembled on the Niagara Frontier, and smaller Bodies approach, from the westward and from Long Point, for the purpose of threatening your rear; it will be sufficient as no serious attack will in that case be to be apprehended) if you order the Troops at Burlington to make a forward movement, for the purpose of taking a Position, say at Burford or Ancaster, or to dispute the passage of the Grand River, where the Detachments at Long Point and Oxford, can fall back on them, and the whole with such Indians & Militia as can be assembled, form a Corps of observation sufficient to keep in check the Enemy's Force, and cover your rear.

The whole of the Troops on the Frontier will then become disposable, and may it is hoped prove sufficient with the powerful Appin they will have in Fort Niagara, and Fort George, and the aid which the squadron will 521 afford them, to prevent the Enemy's covering army (for it must be recollected that the siege of Fort Niagara, will in all probability occupy a considerable part of his Force,) from being able to force back your Division from the Frontier, and by that means greatly facilitate his operations against Fort Niagara, by the possession of both Banks of the River.

In the distribution of so comparatively small a force, as you are likely to have for the defence of the Niagara Frontier, the arrangement which would naturally strike a military man unacquainted with the character of the enemy he has to contend with, or with the events of the two last Campaigns on that Frontier, would be to concentrate the troops in some central position from whence they could be moved to either extremity or whatever Point was invaded.

Such an arrangement however would leave the extremities of the Line open to attack, and would actually invite invasion, and the Persons & Property of the Inhabitants, would be left exposed to the outrages of the smallest Parties of the Enemies Marauders. Experience moreover has proved that a small force, may be distributed along the frontier without any great risque of being cut off. It is therefore Lt. General Drummond's wish, that the Distribution of the Force should be made with reference to that of the last and preceding Campaigns, (previous to the attack of the enemy on Fort George on the 27th of May last,) and that all the stations which were then occupied from Fort George to Fort Erie (but not further) should be now occupied. Change of circumstances has prescribed a change of strength of several of the Detachments—that at Fort Erie for instance, the Lt. General conceives, need not consist of more than one strong company of Infantry, with a small party of Artillery, sufficient to man the 24 Pounder proposed to be mounted in the Southern Demi Bastion, and this Detachment (if the arrangement pointed out by the Lt General to the acting Deputy Quarter-Master General, be made, would be well covered and in perfect security against anything short of an invasion in force—and even in the latter case, a small Party so posted might not only very much annoy any craft or vessels, which might approach the head of the River, but would operate with infinite advantage in the rear of any Force, which might venture to place itself betwixt two fires, by landing between Forts George and Chippawa, and even if cut off, its loss would be of no importance comparatively with the services, which, under an intelligent officer it might render. Chippawa should be *strongly* occupied, (the *expression* is of course relative) and a Detachment placed intermediately betwixt Chippawa and Fort Erie—say at Frenchman's Creek, and a rapid movement should be made from Chippawa to support the Detachments on the Right, and to oppose any descent made above Chippawa. 66

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I now come to a proposition made by you in a former letter, to Lt. Genl. Drummond, for reducing the extent of the works of Fort Niagara, with a view to the reduction of its garrison Your proposition will be referred to His Excellency the Commander of the Forces. But in

the mean time I am directed to observe to you, that considered in a point of view, which does not appear to have struck you, Lt. Genl. Drummond is so far from being inclined to Diminish the Defences, or the Garrison of Fort Niagara (still less wholly to destroy or abandon that Fort) that it appears to him that 5 or 600 men of your division, cannot be better occupied, than in occupying as they in all probability will, at least ten times their number, and *that* it is confidently hoped for no inconsiderable period.

Strengthened indeed as your division will be, by the accession of a Regimen of upwards of 700 strong (the 103d) which will join you as soon as the navigation opens, the Lt. General is disposed to indulge the hope, that much may be done even in the open Field, against an Enemy, the greatest part of whose force, will probably be directed against Fort Niagara.

In the reduced state contemplated by your proposal, you are aware that that place, could not possibly hold out for a single day, against the powerful means which the Enemy will be able to bring against it. By the adoption of that suggestion therefore, it appears to the Lt. General, that we should be voluntarily resigning for a possible but contingent good, all the solid advantages which the acquisition and possession of this Fort is capable of affording us, and of which besides the important one above alluded to, of occupying so large a Portion of the Enemy's Force in its reduction, the benefit to the Squadron of a secure Harbour in which to take shelter, either from the weather or a Superior Enemy, is far from being the least—to say nothing of the negative advantage of the loss of that Harbour to the Enemy.

The occupation of Fort George as a flank to Fort Niagara is essential to the defence of the latter—A Battery of a few heavy guns to bear upon the Esplanade of Fort Niagara, should therefore be immediately compleated in Fort George. A small Detachment even in the event of its becoming necessary to withdraw the whole of the Troops from the Niagara Frontier, for the purpose of a concentration at Burlington (would be sufficient to place in that Fort (George) which is in its turn protected by as it is commanded from Fort Niagara.

A Battery at Mississagua Point (Flag Staff) is highly necessary, and an enclosed one on Queenston Heights if time &c permit its completion.

In concluding these observations Lt. Genl. Drummond has particularly directed me to invite you to communicate such remarks as may suggest themselves to you, and to beg that you will on all occasions freely & fully communicate 523 your ideas on all subjects connected with your most important command, but especially on those herein discussed.

I am further commanded to take this occasion of assuring you of the very great satisfaction and consolation which Lt. Genl. Drummond experiences in reflection that the arduous trust connected with the command of the Right Division at this critical Juncture, is reposed in an officer of such tried zeal activity and ability as yourself.

I have the honor to be Sir (signed) J. Harvey Lt. Col. D. A. G.

Maj. Genl. Riall &c. &c. &c.

[C 682-p 260.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston March 24th 1814

Sir ,

In reference to my former communication to Your Excellency relative to the affair with the Enemy on the River Thames near Delaware Town on the 4th Inst. I have the honor to enclose a letter from Capt. Stewart of the Royal Scots Light Company to Major Deane now in the command at Oxford, covering the report of Capt. Basden of the 89th Light Company on the subject. The Papers I have just now received from Major General Riall—I avail

myself also of the opportunity to send a private communication,1 (with a rough sketch of the Ground) from Lieut Le Breton Deputy Asst-Quarter Master General to my Military Secretary Capt Foster.

1 See pp. 508–10.

I have the honor to be Sir, Your Excellency's most obedient, humble servant Gordon Drummond M. General

Lt. Genl. Sir Geo. Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 682-p 242.]

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MR. ELLIOTT TO CAPT. LORING

(*Indians*)

Beach 25 March 1814.

Sir ,

Permit me to introduce to your notice the bearer Robert Richardson Esquire, a gentleman from Amherstburg capable of giving every information with respect to that part of the country.

As Doctor Richardson while stationed at this Post has for many years attended the Indians and being well acquainted with them & their customs, I would consider it as a particular favor should you mention him to His Honor the Lt. General as a person I could recommend as Surgeon to the Western Indians.

I have the honor to be Your obt. H. Servt— M. Elliott

Capt. Robt. R. Loring A. D. C.

[C 257-p 225.]

FROM MR. CAMERON—UNADDRESSED

(*Indians*)

Extract of a Letter from Colonel Elliott to the Deputy Superintendent General Indian affairs.

dated Beach 25th March 1814.

Two young men of the Potawatamy Nation arrived here last night from Marpork. They state that the Indians in that Quarter are sitting on their War Club waiting to take it up when an opportunity may offer; also that we may as soon as the weather gets warm expect many of the young men to come & join us & get ammunition, also that the Americans tell them that they intend to attack us by the way of Long Point as soon as the navigation opens, and that the Hurons, Delawares & Shawanese are to accompany them. Should this prove true these nations can send five or six hundred men and leave sufficient with their women & children. I shall send to the other nations to avert if possible this evil.1 The Heights appear to be their object.

1 Persistent Col. M. Elliott, will bring to bear what persuasion he can to keep the Indians in line.

Truly extracted York 26th March 1814

(signed) D. Cameron Asst. Scy. I. D.

[C 257-p 222.]

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MR. CLAUS TO CAPTAIN LORING

(*Indians*)

York 28th March 1814

Sir,

I received a Letter yesterday from Colonel Elliott of the 25th Instant—I herewith transmit for the information of His Honor Lieut General Drummond I have directed Colonel Elliott to send off the runners immediately to Marpork & the Potawatamies.

Col. Elliott ought to know the strength of the Nations that is said to have joined the Enemy, but I am at a loss to know where they can have such a force—I know the Hurons are very weak & most of the Shawanese moved some years ago to the West of the Mississippi, the Delawares whose place of residence is on the Eel River near the head of the Wabashe are the strongest Nation, but the distance is so great that I should doubt very much their coming forward with the Enemy. The want of Wampum is very great as no business can be done with Indians without it, a Requisition was sent down more than twelve months ago for that article, but none was received.

I also put under cover a letter from Major Givins of the 23d Instant addressed to me on the subject of Rations being issued to the families of officers of the Indian Department—I beg leave to submit the same to His Honor the President hoping that the same indulgence may be granted to the Indian Department that this order gives to the Staff & Army in the Country.1

1 Col. Claus gets active, too, in the effort to hold the Indian alliance solid.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient humble Servant [signed]1 W. Claus D. S. G.

Captain Loring M. Secy.

[C 257-p 223.]

CAPT. LORING TO SECRETARY FREER

(*Indians*)

Presidents Office Kingson 29th March 1814

Sir ,

I have been directed by His Honor Lt. General Drummond to forward to you a Letter from Col. Claus Dy. Supt. General of Indian Affairs on the 526 subject of a sum of money,1 being amount of stock due to the Indians of the Six Nations residing on the Grand River.

1 £ S. D. 551-4-10.

If it be the intention of Government to advance this sum, as Colonel Claus states to have been heretofore done, to prevent the Indians suffering the loss on Exchange, the Lieutenant General requests you will be pleased to obtain for him the authority of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces for so doing.

I likewise enclose by His Honor's desire the papers named in the margin2 , which he is desirous may be submitted for the approval of His Excellency.

2

Indian Dept. No. 1 Abstract Disbursements From to 2 Pay Lists 25 Sep. 24 Nov. 3 do 25 Dec. 24 Feb. 4 do 1 Sept 1812 Supplementary to 24 Nov: 1813. 5 Pension List

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient humble Servant Robert R. Loring A. D. C.

Noah Freer Esq Mil. Secy.

[C 257-p 226.]

MR. CLAUS TO CAPTAIN LORING

(*Indians*)

York 30th March 1814

Sir ,

The Superintendent of Indian Affairs at Amherstburg having frequently represented the necessity of a Surgeon being appointed to attend the sick & wounded Western Indians & their families, I now beg leave to recommend to His Honor Lieut General Drummond, Doctor Richardson, as a proper Person, should His Honor be pleased to appoint a Surgeon for the Amherstburg branch of the Indian dept. Doctor Richardson has for several years past attended the Indians when called upon without any remuneration for his services.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obt. Hum Servt, W. Claus D. S. G. Ind. Affrs.

Captain Loring Secretary to His Honor Lieut Genl. Drummond

[C 257-p 229.]

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LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston March 31st 1814

Sir ,

I am concerned to inform Your Excellency, that I have received a Report, from Major General Riall, of the 24th Instant, stating that no progress had been made in any of the works, on the Niagara Frontier, in consequence of the severity of the weather there being more snow on the ground in that neighborhood now, than there has been during the winter.

I have the honor to enclose, for Your Excellency's information the copy of a letter from Major Deane, commanding the Detachment of Royal Scots, at Oxford—You Excellency is well aware of the inadaquacy of our means in that quarter, should it prove to be the intention of the Enemy to advance upon Burlington from Long Point, and at the same time make an attempt upon the Niagara Line.

It having been reported to me by Major General Riall, and from other quarters that Major McKee, of the Indian Department has been doing a great deal of mischief among the Indians, upon the Beach at the Head of the Lake, not only by getting shamefully drunk himself, every day and speaking very improperly to them, but by permitting liquor to be sold to them in great quantities, which renders them outrageous and easy to be worked upon; and having understood that it might prove even dangerous to have him written to, or spoken with anger or displeasure on the subject, as he has very considerable influence over them and might lead them astray, I thought it advisable to send for him to Kingston, for the purpose of conversing with him, on Indian affairs and propose soon after his arrival here to forward him to Montreal; where Your Excellency will I trust find means to employ or detain him as long as we may find the services of the Indian Tribes useful to the cause we are engaged in.1

1 See appendix.

I am happy to inform Your Excellency that no Desertions from the King's Regiment have taken place, since their relief from Fort Niagara was made known to them, although

the same opportunity still existed, which proves, I have satisfaction in observing a disinclination to the Place only, and not to His Majesty's Service.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellency's most obedient humble servant Gordon Hummond M. General

Lt. Genl. Sir George Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 282-p 285.]

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LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston April 2nd 1814.

Secret & Confidential .

Sir ,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's letter of the 24th ultimo, marked Private & Confidential, enclosing the copy of a Letter from Mr Monroe, to Brigadier General Winder, of the United States Army, on the subject of an armistice, on which Your Excellency desires my sentiments.

I beg leave respectfully to submit as my opinion, that the object of Mr. Monroe's letter is two fold. First To gain time for organizing their naval and military force—Second. To cause the proposal for the armistice (the discussion of which is to afford that time) to originate with Your Excellency—

Unless Your Excellency is in possession of some other pledge than General Winder's1 assurances of the sincerity of his Government, I should place but little faith in them; as

I have ever understood that officer to be one of the most strenuous supporters of the War; and with all the most plausible, therefore the most dangerous Agent, the American Government could employ in this Country.

1 See appendix.

If the American Government be sincerely desirous of a cessation of hostilities I conceive that it arises from the consideration, that the advantages to be derived from a continuance of them are, at least doubtful, or more probably that, on the opening of the ensuing Campaign, they will decidedly be on our side.

We should be extremely cautious in doing anything, the tendency of which may derogate from the high ground, on which His Majesty's Government stands, by affording the Enemy the smallest reason to infer, that any diffidence of our ability to defend these Provinces, has a secret influence in deciding us, to court or even too willingly to meet, his advances for a cessation of hostilities—

Respecting the motives which should influence your Excellency to any discussion of a pacific nature; although I admit, the communication between Coteau du Lac and Kingston, may be liable to occasional interruption; yet I do not consider it so much so, as to cause any serious apprehension—That between Kingston & Niagara can only be interrupted, in the event of the Enemy acquiring the superiority on Lake Ontario—And the accompanying Deposition, on oath, of a Person lately from Sackett's Harbour, affords strong grounds for hope, that the Enemy's Marine at that 529 place will not soon, if ever, acquire that degree of force alluded to in your Excellency's letter—The whole of the advantages therefore, to be derived from the armistice therefore will be reaped by the Enemy.1

1 The sagacity of Gen. Drummond deserves commendation.

It is impossible at present to ascertain, to which side the naval Superiority on the Lake will preponderate, on the opening of the navigation, unless full credit can be attached to the

enclosed Deposition; when, if so, the superiority will decidedly be on our side; and at all events we have, in my opinion, as much right to look for its possession as the Enemy—

Should an opportunity offer, by even a temporary naval superiority, for the destruction of the Enemy's Fleet, and Arsenal, at Sackett's Harbour, a vigorous combined attack by the Navy, and Army, would be highly adviseable: yet it must be remembered, that the Squadron will be required to perform another most important service, as soon as the season opens—vizt: the pushing of Troops (the 103d Regt and the Glengarry Light Infantry) Stores &c. &c. to the relief of Fort Niagara, and the Right Division.

The latest information I have received respecting the Enemy's Squadron, has been from the accompanying Document Our two new Ships, Sir James Yeo informs me, he is in hopes to launch, on the 9th Instant, if the Ice permits; and they will be in readiness with the other vessels, immediately after the opening of the navigation —

It is highly satisfactory to know, that the Interests of the Indians will not be forgotten in any arrangement which may take place.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellencys most obedient humble Servant Gordon Drummond Lt. General

Lt. General Sir Geo. Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 683-p 1.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(War—1812)

Kingston April 5th 1814.

Sir ,

The necessity for an additional number of Marines for the Service of the Squadron having been represented to me by the Commodore Sir James Yeo, and in fact the impossibility of its leaving port without them having been 67 530 so strongly urged by that officer; I have felt myself called upon to give every assistance in my power for gaining the naval superiority on the Lake, that I have considered it indispensibly necessary for the safety of the Province, to accede to the Commodore's solicitation, and I have in consequence directed two companies of the Marines to proceed immediately from Fort Wellington to this place, and the two companies of the 89th Regt under Major Clifford from Cornwall to replace them on whose arrival at Fort Wellington the remaining two companies of the Marines are to march for Kingston.

I beg leave, therefore to suggest to Your Excellency that the 89th Regt. Complete, be ordered to Fort Wellington, whereby Lieut. Col. Morrison being senior to Lieut. Col. Pearson, the latter officer would become disposable for service of the Right Division where an officer of Lieut. Col. Pearson's intelligence, is very particularly wanting, and the two companies of the 103d Regt would become efficient with their Corps. The 89th Regt. at Coteau du Lac can be replaced by a regiment of Embodied Militia or such other Troops as Your Excellency may find disposable.

I do not conceive that the entire of the Marines will be required on board the squadron, at the same time, yet I consider it highly necessary, that they should be on the spot to fill up vacancies, arising from every description of casualties as they occur.

And I must again take the liberty of pressing on Your Excellency's observation, the inadaquacy of the force for the safety of that all important Place, as soon as the 103d Regiment shall be removed from hence; and should I find it necessary also the Glengarry Light Infantry.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellency's most obedient humble Servant Gordon Drummond Lt. Genl.

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Lt. General Sir George Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 683-p 8.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston April 7th 1814

Sir

I have the honor to report to your Excellency, that Major General Riall's last letter to me states, that no regular Force has as yet made its appearance 531 on the American side of the Niagara River; and that consequently he supposes no part of the column, which left Sackett's Harbour, some time since, had arrived in that neighbourhood; conceiving, from the display the Enemy used to make formerly, they will not be long in shewing themselves, when they do arrive; at the same time, expressing his hope, and belief, that, in the hands of the garrison, (the 100th Regiment) who so gallantly gained possession of it, Fort Niagara is, for the present, safe.

A Mr. Bell, a respectable man, and two others, lately made their escape from Malden and report, that there is not the smallest appearance of any preparation there for a forward movement; nor did they hear it spoken of; they were totally unacquainted with occurrences at Presque Isle—On their way to Port Talbot, they discovered the two guns left by the Enemy in the woods near Point Aux Pins; and hid them so carefully, as totally to prevent their being found again, except by themselves,—Two Gun Carriages, and two Ammunition Carts, with ammunition, discovered, at the same time, and place, Colonel Talbot has sent a party to destroy.

I am happy to acquaint Your Excellency, that Assistant Commissary General Coffin, in the absence of Mr. Dance, has reported to me, that the three months supply of provisions, ordered to be deposited in Fort Niagara, will have been laid in there in the course of a week, from the 27th ultimo.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient, humble servt Gordon Drummond Lt General

His Excellency Sir Sir George Prevost Bart & &c &

[C 683-p 12.]

MR. MONROE TO COL. PINCKNEY1

1 The negotiations began and ended with a meeting between Col. Pinkney and Col. Baynes, an interview lasting but a brief space of time. Col. Pinkney was inspector general of the U. S. army.

(*War—1812*)

Department of State April 11th 1814

Sir ,

You are hereby authorized to discuss and arrange an armistice with such person as Sir George Prevost may appoint, and which, when concluded and mutually signed, is to be executed as definitely binding on both parties.

I have the honor to be very respectfully Sir (Signed) Your obedt Servt James Monroe

To Ninion Pinkney Esquire Colonel in the Army and Inspector General thereof

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[C 683-p 79.]

532

COMMODORE YEO TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston U. Canada 13th April 1814 —

Sir ,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's letter of the 7th inst. requesting my opinion respecting an overture for an armistice offered by the American Government —together with the information recently obtained from a person from Sackett's Harbour—which your Excellency is disposed to consider as correct—which you wish me to compare with my former statement to you (I perceive it corroborates the statement) and which you wish should assist my judgment in the answer I am about to give —

After the most deliberate consideration I am of opinion that, as far as relates to naval operations, It is by no means certain the Enemy will have the advantage at the commencement of the Campaign—And the reinforcement of Seamen & supply of stores which His Majesty's Government mean so frequently to assist us with, will, I have no doubt, enable us to acquire the ascendency on the Lake.

The third ship now building I believe, of far greater force than any the Enemy can launch at Sackett's Harbour—And doubts have arisen as to the practicability of launching the large ship now ready—as will appear by the accompanying deposition of the Carpenter of the Madison—But even admitting the enemy are able to launch their large ship & have received the whole of their guns & stores (of which I entertain a doubt) we never have been so competent to engage them with a reasonable prospect of success as at present.

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For although the enemy have a greater number of Guns of heavy calibre—Yet my having two ships of such effective strength as the Prince Regent & the Princess Charlotte, closely to support each other may give me an advantage in the early part of an action—which I feel confident, the talents of the officers & spirits of the men under my command would immediately avail themselves of—I perceive two of the Enemy's new vessels are *Brigs* and however formidable they may be as to *weight* of *metal* should any accident befall their gaff or main Boom, they become for the time unmanageable—Brigs have never been esteemed so effective as ships in Battle—1 In short sir, I am fully persuaded, that with the means I now possess together with those the Government mean to place at my disposal. I shall be able either to bring Chauncey to a decisive action, or, should I find him too superior (for I cannot rely on his strength until I see his squadron) manoeuvre with him until the third ship is ready. And which vessel I look

1 Brig rigged vessels after sufficient trial on the great lakes were soon superseded by fore and after schooners for purposes of commerce.

533 upon to be of a description look down all opposition. In the interim of this ship being ready—the reinforcements of seamen can be placed in heavy gunboats that may effectively assist me during the calms at the commencement of the season —

These considerations induce me to be decidedly of opinion that were Your Excellency to accept of the proposed armistice it would neither conduce to the credit of His Majesty's Government or the honor of His arms—while it would enable the enemy to gain time for launching & equipping more ships—augmenting & concentrating his forces & bringing them to bear (should a rupture of the armistice come—a measure I fear from the known enmity & insincerity of the American Government, too likely to occur) with redoubled force against us.

I have the honor to be with the highest respect Sir Your Excellency's most obedient humble Servant James Lucas Yeo Commodore

His Excellency Sir Geo. Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 683-p 19.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston April 14th 1814.

Sir ,

I have the honor to acquaint Your Excellency that in compliance with my desire Commodor Sir James Yeo, directed His Majesty's Schooner Beresford to receive on board such Detachment of Troops as she could accommodate for a passage to the Head of the Lake. That vessel in consequence sailed yesterday morning from hence, with a leading wind for Niagara, with the Grenadier Company of the 103d Regt. with a proportion of Rocketeers with a supply of Rockets & an 18 Pounder.

I have peculiar satisfaction in communicating to Your Excellency that the two new Ships, the Prince Regent & Princess Charlotte were launched yesterday in a very superior style without any accident occurring. The Commodore 534 thinks they will be fit for sea in about ten days, but I cannot imagine until about the first of the ensuing month.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellency's Most obedient humble servant Gordon Drummond Lt. Genl

Lieut General Sir Geo. Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 683-p 25.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*Indians*)

Kingston 19th April 1814.

Sir

I have the honor to acquaint your Excellency, that Major General Riall has reported to me his having been requested to attend a Grand Council of the Indians at the Head of the Lake. The Prophet1 has been chosen the principal chief of all the Western Nations. His having been presented with the Sword & Pistols, from His Royal Highness, the Prince Regent gave very general satisfaction. He has promised the most cordial cooperation; & says their smallest boys capable of bearing arms, shall be ready to march at a moments' notice.

1 Tecumseh's brother, a scheming fellow, but lacking the noble traits of the warrior who fell at the Thames. Chosen principal chief after the death of Tecumseh.

I am much concerned to communicate to Your Excellency, that the Major General states, that Three of the Six Nations speaking through their principal chief have requested the Major General to represent to Your Excellency their dissatisfaction at the appointment of Capt. Norton to be their Leader. They say they will not acknowledge him as such; will pay him no respect or obedience; nor look to him for anything they want; that they know him not except as a disturber of the Peace and Harmony, that ought to exist amongst them; they have a Head Man, whom the King has appointed & they want no other (Col. Claus;) the representation made to Colonel Drummond was the contrivance of a few who had no authority to do so, and it was not the opinion of the nations. The Major General enquired, If such was the general opinion. The Chiefs of three viz. the Mohawks Oneidas 535 and Tuscaroras, said it was theirs decidedly; the others viz. the Cayugas, Onondagas, and Senecas refused to answer.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellency's most obedient humble servant Gordon Drummond Lt. General

His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 257-p 253.]

DEPOSITION OF CONSTANT BACON

(*War—1812*)

York April 22d 1814.

Examination of Constant Bacon, late a Sutler with the Division of the American Army on the Niagara Frontier. Born in the Town of Scipio—County of Cayuga—State of New York—left the American advanced posts on the 20th Inst and arrived at Fort Niagara about 2 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day—gives the following information.

The Troops on that line are stated by the officers & men to amount to 7000 of whom (25th Regt) 500 at Hardscrabbe 5 miles in the rear of Lewis town—100 at Black Rock 6400 at eleven mile creek. There is an arsenal (Log Building) at Hardscrabbe, containing 500 stand of arms, deposited by the militia who were all dismissed on the eleventh Inst. there is also a quantity of ammunition and four wagon loads of entrenching tools. There were no field pieces. There is a depot of provisions on the Ridge Road, at the widow Forsyth's1 about nine miles from Hardscrabbe. It consists of beef pork whiskey and flour, of all of which there is a large supply. There is a road leading from the mouth of the 18 mile creek on the west side. The distance ten miles but the roads very bad. Thinks there is at least 2000 barrels of all kinds of provisions at this depot. There is no pork nearer to Hardscrabbe than the eleven mile creek and Buffaloe, which are equi distant (about 32 miles) there are at the 11 mile creek some heavy guns—vizt. a long 24 Pdr—an 18 Pdr—one 9 Pdr 2 6 Pdrs 2 mortars and a large depot of provisions. General Harrison is

expected in about three weeks with a strong reinforcement from De Troit. The nearest depot of provisions to those already mentioned is at the mouth of the Genesee river and at

1 As this Widow Forsyth lived nine miles from “Hardscrabble,” and Hardscrabble was five miles from Lewiston, N. Y., the depot was fourteen miles away. But Bacon may have exaggerated.

536 the Upper Landing exactly 4 miles up, to which last place large schooners can sail, there are there large quantities of Beef Pork Salt & Whiskey and no batteaux guns or troops for their protection. The next consisting of flour pork & whiskey is at Nondiquet, a few miles further to the Eastward, it is exactly four miles from the falls of the Genesee, to the Nondiquet store house, and three miles from the upper landing to the Falls, the country here is not well settled the next depot is at Putney —which is between the Genesee River and Big Sodus, this depot is on the Lake Shore. It consists as before of a large quantity of provisions and Salt, and there are no men stationed there, unless they have come very lately, there is also a large depot at Sodus. There is also a large depot at Oswego but there is a strong force stationed there. A schooner of about 40 or 45 Tons is building at Nondiquet—Says the army on the Frontier has no boats, was in this Province at Swagatchee (Ogdensburg) but has no acquaintance with any person there. His object in coming here was to get rid of paying some money which he owed for a cargo of liquors and stores which he had bought on credit, and which had been plundered from him by the American Troops.

(Signed) C. Bacon

Bacon further says it is intended to attack on this side.

(Signed) Robt Nichol

[C 683-p 50.]

EARL BATHURST TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Downing Street 24th April 1814

Sir ,

I take the earliest opportunity of acquainting you that His Majesty's Government have not failed to avail themselves of the present favourable state of affairs in Europe1 to order reinforcements both of Infantry and Artillery for the army under your command to proceed to Quebec as soon as they can be collected from the different quarters in which their services have been hitherto required.

1 The allied armies having entered Paris, March 31, 1814, Napoleon's abdication being certain and did eventuate May 11, he retiring to Elba. A most favorable state of affairs.

I have the honor to be Sir Lieut general Your most obedient Humble Servant Bathurst .

Lieut general Sir Geo. Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 683-p 24.]

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BRIG. GEN. MACOMB TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Head Quarters of the Army of the United States Plattsburg April 25th 1814.

To His Excellency Sir Geo. Prevost Bart Commander of the British Forces in Canada &c. &c. &c.

Sir ,

The Government of the United States has appointed an officer of rank to meet such person as your Excellency may appoint, on the part of the British Government, to discuss & arrange an armistic. The village of Champlain is proposed as the place of conference. Should there be no objection to the spot, the officer referred to, will meet the person appointed by Your Excellency on the first day of May next.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient humble Servant Alex Macomb 1 Brigr Genl. Commanding

1 See appendix.

[C 683-p 46.]

TO BRIG. GEN. MACOMB—WITHOUT SIGNATURE

(*War—1812*)

Sir ,

I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 25th Inst. acquainting me that the Government of the U. S. had appointed an officer of rank to meet the person I should appoint on the part of the British Government, to discuss and arrange an armistice & that the village of Champlain is proposed as the place of conference. In reply I have the honor to inform you that an officer of rank of the British Army will be sent to the place you have mentioned in the course of the first day of May

I have the honor to be &c.

Brigr. Genl. Macombe

[C 683-p 48.] 68

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LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston 26th April 1814.

Sir ,

I have the honor to transmit for your Excellency's Information, a copy of a Deposition of Constant Bacon, who was sent to York from Fort Niagara, having left the advanced Posts of the Enemy on the 20th Inst and arrived at that place on the evening of the same day.

Should this man's report be true, and should not the most ample supplies of Provisions, particularly Flour, be sent from the Lower Provinces, I feel strongly apprehensive that the Right Division will not be able to hold its ground, even though the entire resources of the country should be at our command.

Maj. General Riall, I am concerned to report to your Excellency states to me that he has received a very strong representation from Deputy Assist. Comy. Gen. Dance of the absolute necessity of decreasing the issue of flour to the Indians. Mr. Dance says “without losing time by the consideration “of the necessity or policy of this, I must repeat my positive conviction, that “at the rate of our present issues to them (nearly 1200 Barrels to the Indians “alone pr. month) no effort of human exertions can supply this Army many “months longer, for the flour is not in the country.” The total consumption he states at nearly 2000 barrels per month without including the garrison or York or the Militia. The average consumption of the Indians of all descriptions being about 40 barrels per day—The consumption on the immediate frontier being about 20 barrels per day.

Maj. General Riall feels much at a loss how to act with respect to the issues to the Indians being very certain in which I agree with him, that the reduction of any Portion of the usual Ration of Flour, will excite considerable discontent, and even defection, unless some

other article be substituted for it —Fresh meat is not to be had; and very little indeed can be expected from Fishing. Salt meat, therefore, is the only alternative; and this must be proceeded with immense difficulty from the Lower Province—and the transport of it by the Squadron we cannot always depend upon.1

1 Shows the question of supplies had reached a critical stage, communication with the lower province being interrupted.

From the enclosed information, and the circumstances before detailed, I therefore consider that the safety of the Province in a great measure depends, as well upon the naval Superiority, as upon the destruction of the Enemy's Vessels, &c at Sackett's Harbour. And there does not appear to me a more favorable opportunity, than the present, could your Excellency afford the means, of undertaking the enterprize; which to ensure a 539 reasonable hope of success cannot consist, unquestionably, of less than 4000 effective men.

I have the Honor to be Sir Your Excellency's most obedient humble Servant Gordon Drummond Lt. General

His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bt &c &c &c

[C 683-p 52.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston 27th April 1814.

Sir ,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's Letter of the 23d Inst. enclosing a plan of a combined attack proposed to be made on the Enemy's part at Sackett's Harbour, to which I have given that serious attention which the great importance of the subject demands.

By my Letter to Your Excellency of yesterday's date, written prior to the arrival of your dispatches, you will perceive that I had already in a great measure anticipated Your Excellency's views with regard to the imperious necessity which exists for an immediate attempt to destroy the Enemy's Fleet, at the same time that I stated what I now beg leave to repeat, that in my opinion a force of not less than 4000 effective Troops would be essentially necessary to ensure a reasonable hope of success, as from the latest information I have been enabled to collect, not only the defences have been strengthened and multiplied by the erection of Block Houses, but the garrison does not consist of less than 1500 Regular Troops, with constant reinforcements of Recruits, besides there are between 1500 and 2000 seamen.

Previously to the receipt of Your Excellency's commands, I had had a communication with Sir James Yeo relative to the expediency of a combined attack on the Enemy's Fleet. I also in the compliance with your wishes, had this morning a conference with him on the same subject when I submitted to him Your Excellency's Letter, and its accompanying Document.

Sir James entirely coincides in opinion with me, that the force to be brought against the place ought to be at least what I have before stated—

540

Inclosed I have the honor to lay before Your Excellency a statement of the Force & means that I presume can be collected within my command, by which you will observe that it is necessary a reinforcement should be sent from other quarters of the Province to make up the number specified.

In addition to the operation in agitation against Sackett's Harbour I conceive that a successful attack on this great naval Depot at Oswego would nearly if not altogether circumscribe the proceedings of the Enemy, because should we be so fortunate as to destroy the stores &c that are now collected there, for the use of the Fleet, it is very improbable they could shew themselves on the Lake for some time at least.

I propose giving Sir James Yeo an adequate number of Troops to cooperate with him for the accomplishment of this desirable object, as soon after the squadron can put to sea as possible.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellencys Most obedient humble Servant Gordon Drummond Lt. Genl.

His Excellency Sir Geo. Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 683-p 57.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston 28th April 1814

Sir ,

In addition to the statement I had the honor to address to Your Excellency in my Letter of yesterday's date, I now beg leave to transmit some further observations on the subject of the proposed attack on Sackett's Harbour. It is sufficiently obvious that considerable time will be required to collect the troops necessary for the undertaking, that a vessel must be sent to Niagara to carry up the Iron 24 Pdrs. and to bring down the Brass ones, as these guns are indispensible, it is evident also, taking for granted that 4000 men is the smallest

number, with which the enterprize ought to be attempted, that at least 800 of them must come from the Lower Province—

Under all these circumstances, and with a view to derive every advantage which may be possible, from the interval which a reference to Your Excellency 541 for your decision and aid, has unavoidably occasioned, I propose that immediately after the Squadron is ready to sail (which it is hoped will be in two days, provided the ring Bolts arrive) Sir James Yeo shall proceed off Sackett's Harbour, to reconnoitre the state of forwardness of the Enemy's new Ship, and from thence along the coast to Oswego, where it is reported there are large Depots of provisions and naval stores, and what are of infinitely greater importance some of the guns & other essential parts of the equipment of the new Ship, should Sir James Yeo in cooperation with the force which I intend embarking on board the Fleet be so fortunate as to seize or destroy the guns and stores, and thereby retard the Progress of this vessel, the advantages to be derived from such a measure would be incalculable.

From Oswego Sir. James can detach one of the Brigs to Fort George, and the Head of the Lake, to take up the Iron and return with the Brass guns, and with the assistance of the Beresford and Vincent schooners, which are already there, and such craft as can be collected the Detachments of Regular and Militia Troops from York, and the Indians from Burlington, can be conveyed to Kingston or to the Point of Rendezvous—

Without entering into the numerous reasons in favour of an immediate attack on Sackett's Harbour, it may be sufficient to observe that the exhausted state of this Province with respect to provisions will not admit of protracted operations. I will not say exactly how long our resources may hold out, but I am very apprehensive that at no very remote period, difficulties the most serious and alarming in this respect will be felt by the Right Division.1

1 Prospect of sufficient supplies has become more serious.

Should the Enemy therefore be suffered unmolested to complete his new vessel, it is to be feared that he will then be enabled occasionally, at least, to interrupt the communication

with Niagara and the Head of the Lake, by which alone that Division can be supported and fed.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellency's most obedient humble servant Gordon Drummond Lt General

His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 683-p 61.]

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STATEMENT

Statement of the Force and means which it is assumed may be collected in Upper Canada for the Attack on Sackett's Harbour.1

1 The militia to be called out at Kingston, Prescott and Cornwall during the absence of the regular troops.

Troops

From the Garrison of Kingston 103d Regt. (Grenadier Company excepted) 550

De Watteville (200 will remain at Kingston) 750

104th (all fit for active field service) 250

Glengarry Lt. Infantry Do 250

1800

From Prescott & Cornwall 89th Regt (leaving about 100 in Prescott) 400

From York & Burlington 41st Regt (Volunteers) 250

Incorporated Militia (do) under Capt Robinson of the King's Regiment 150

400

Indians from Burlington (Volunteers) 200

Add 2nd Batt R. Marines (the whole) 400

Total Infantry 3000

Indians 200

Ordnance on Field Carriages

From Kingston it is proposed to take the two 12 Pdrs. the 5½ & 8 Inch Howitzers and perhaps one 6 Pdr.

None of these pieces however except the large Howitzer can be of much use against Block houses. It is therefore proposed to bring down the two 24 Brass Pounders from Fort George, sending up the Iron Guns in their place. Troops & Light Artillery alone would be of no use in whatever numbers employed. Heavy ordnance is indispensible to the success of an attack on an Enemy whose principal defence consists not in a Breastwork as assumed in the memorandum, but in a connected chain of stout Block Houses armed with guns of heavy calibre. The two large mortars (or 68 Pd. Cannonades might be placed in proper Boats and might be useful both against the Block houses & Shipping. The Rocket Detachment under Lieut Stevens would also be capable of rendering every great service on shore, 543 but it does not appear advisable to attempt to use the Rockets (Congreve's from Boats and other Craft.

[C 683-p 65.]

SIR GEORGE PREVOST TO COL. BAYNES

(*War—1812*)

Head Quarters Longueuil 29th April 18141

1 The appointment of Col. Baynes to discuss and arrange an armistice is made in accordance with the note of Macomb, p. 537.

Sir ,

The Government of the United States appointed an officer of Rank to meet such person as I may appoint on the part of the British Government to discuss and arrange an Armistice to the extent of my authority, I have selected you for this important duty in the presumption a suspension of arms is sought by the President of the United States, with a sincere desire of conciliation, and in the firm belief the negotiation at Gottenburg will lead to a speedy & amicable adjustment of the differences existing between the two countries, & not merely for the purpose of obtaining a temporary cessation of Hostilities. Conceiving myself to be acting in strict conformity with the principles which invariably have marked the conduct of His Majesty's Government, *not the Agressor in the War* , by displaying a readiness to meet that of the United States in every just and honorable measure which has for its immediate object the promotion of existing difficulties, and viewing the prolongation of Hostilities as more calculated to retard than accelerate that object, I have determined on your proceeding to the village of Champlain for the purpose of meeting the officer who has been appointed and ordered to proceed there by the Government of the United States, and you are hereby authorized to discuss and arrange an Armistice upon such terms and conditions, as are consistent with the liberty of the British Nation and which shall accord with its interest and honor.

I am Sir Your most obedient humble Servant George Prevost Lt. Genl. Comr of the Forces

To Col. Edward Baynes Adjt. General to the Forces in B. N. America

[C 683-p 88.]

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TERMS OF ARMISTICE1

1 See appendix.

(*War-1812*)

His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bart. Commander of His Britannic Majesty's Forces in the North American Provinces on the part of Great Britain & the Hon James Monroe Secretary of State on the part of the Unites States, being desirous in consequence of the negotiations pending between their respective nations to prevent the useless effusion of human blood, and to put a stop to the further calamities of war, have agreed, His Excellency Sir George Provost Bart by Col. Edward Baynes Adjt General to His Britannic Majesty's said forces in North America, who is duly authorized for that purpose, and the said Honorable James Monroe Secretary of State by

who is duly authorized by the Government of the Unites States for the like purpose upon the following terms of an armistice—

First—That an armistice between the Land Forces of Great Britain in the Canadas and in the other British Provinces in America & those of the United States and between the naval forces of both nations on the Lakes will take form

and shall continue to be in force until an absolute and unequivocal rupture in the negotiations holding at Gottensburg and further that no act of Hostility shall be committed on either side until at least 30 days shall have expired from the hour on which the notice of

the intended rupture of the intended armistice is received by the party not being the first to revert the Hostilities.

2nd A cessation of Hostilities shall take place on both sides at all distant posts from the moment the arrangement of this armistice shall be announced at each Military station, and the same to be promulgated with the least possible delay.

3rd All the Indian Tribes and their followers & Adherents who have borne a part in the war on either side are to be considered are included in the armistice ion the most full and liberal manner, and each government respectively pledges itself to exert its utmost influence to endeavour to cause the said armistice to be faithfully observed by all the Indians in Habits of intercourse or friendship with either nation.

545

4th. The Posts of Amherstburg and Town of Sandwich if in possession of the Troops of the Unites States when this armistice is notified at Detroit to be retained by them during the continuance of the armistice, but no armed force is to be sent from either place into the country adjacent, nor are the settlers or Inhabitants thereof to be subject to the Control or Government of the officers commanding at those places.

5th. The Forts of Niagara and Michilimackinac shall also remain in the possession of the Troops of Great Britain during the said Armistice, the officers commanding in those places confining their Troops to the limits of their respective posts—

6th. No armed force or patrols or parties of Reconnoisance shall approach within five miles of any Frontier Military Posts, on either side of Lower Canada—

7th. No vessels are to be suffered to pass the heights from Lake Erie to Lake Huron, or to visit or hold any communication with any part of the cost—or territory of the enemy on any of the Lakes.

8th. Sacketts Harbour and Kingston are to be established points of communication on Lake Ontario—Fort Erie on Lake Erie, and Champlain & Odell Town for the communications of the Lower Province.

9th. The Intercourse of Travelers, private individuals between to two nations, to be made liable to such restrictions, as may be deemed expedient by either party.

Given under my hand at Head Quarters Longuile the twenty ninth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and fourteen.

George Prevost

Commander of the Forces in British North America.

By His Excellencys Command Noah Freer military Secretary

[C 681-p 68.]

COLONEL BAYNES TO COLONEL PINKNEY

(*War—1812*)

Champlain Town 1st May, 1814.

Sir ,

I have the honor to furnish you with the enclosed copy of the credentials that I received from Lt. Genl. Sir. G. Prevost, containing the basis upon 69 546 which I am authorized to treat for an Armistice, and I request to be informed if you are prepared to discuss and arrange an Armistice upon the terms proposed, or on what grounds you are empowered to proceed ion such an arrangement.

I have &c (signed) Edward Baynes adjt. Genl. to the Forces.

Colonel N. Pinckney Insp. Genl. U. S. Army.

[C 683-p 92.]

FROM COLONEL BAYNES—UNADDRESSED1

1 Duplicate copy addresses this letter to Sir George Prevost.

(*War—1812*)

Champlain Town 1 May 1814—

Confidential .

Sir ,

I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that the officer I have meet at this place, is the Aid de Camp of Genl. Dearborne, who brought the intimation of the rejection on the Part of the President of the Armistice concluded at Albany: The officer proposed by Mr Monroe, was to have been General Winder & Colonel Pinkney has been substituted, as a measure of necessity in his place, he was not been at Washington nor had any communication with Mr. Monroe, or does he appear to be at all acquainted with the views, or designs of his government in the present arrangement. He came prepared with the head of an Armistice, which I have not yet learnt, but upon showing him your guide letter he observed that he had no latitude left at his discretion, with respect to pledging his Government with respect the principle upon which the Armistice was proposed, or to engage for any thing more than an ordinary cessation of hostilities, to be annulled at the *pleasure* of either party, at 20 days notice; & that he did not feel himself at liberty to pledge himself either for the principle or to the extent of the period stated in Your Excellency's letter. I have assumed him, that you will not accede to an armistice on any other terms. I have sent him a copy

of my credentials with a not requesting him to inform me if he is prepared to negotiate on those grounds, or what others he had to propose? I shall of course await the result & see if any arrangement can be made of a nature that Your Excellency would approve of, but I am not sanguine & think it will end, in waiting for General Winder's return, as I suspect Colonel Pinkney will adhere to the mere letter of his Instructions whatever they may be. 547 I return this my Major Coore. If I can be of no further use by waiting I will my self return tomorrow morning.

I have the honor to be with great respect Your Excellency's most obedient humble Servant Ed. Baynes ad. Genl.

[C 683-p 78].

MR. LAMB TO COLONEL PINKNEY

(*War—1812*)

Champlain Town May 1st 1814

Sir ,

I have the honor to acknowledge your note of this day, and to inform you that the proposal entertained in the first paragraph corresponds with the Instructions I have received from His Excellency Lt. Genl. Sir Geo. Prevost in as far as they relate to the grounds & conditions upon which he states there he is willing to assent to a cessation of hostilities, between the forces under his immediate command, including the Lakes of Canada but His Excellency is not impowered to make any stipulation whatever for the Naval commander. It is not expected that any assurance can be given, that a conciliation shall follow an Armistice, as a matter of course; but it is required as a pledge of the sincerity of the desire, on the part of the United States, that the result of the negotiation pending at Gottenburg may terminate in an honorable adjustment of differences subsisting between the two

countries & that the rupture of that negociation, shall be the sole ground upon which either party shall be at liberty to dissolve the Armistice.

J. Lamb 1

1 In charge after Col. Baynes' departure.

Lt. Col. N. Pinkney Insp. Genl. U. S. Army

[c 683-p 87.]

TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST-WITHOUT SIGNATURE2

2 Duplicate copy shows this letter to be written by Col. Edward Baynes.

(*War—1812*)

Head Quarters Montreal 3d May 1814—

Sir ,

I have the honor to report to your Excellency, that in obedience to your commands I proceeded on the first instant to Champlain Town and was 548 received at Judge Moore's House by Colonel Pinkney Inspector General of The Army of the United States— Who communicated to me a letter from the American Secretary of State appointing him to discuss and arrange an Armistice, with such Person as your Excellency might appoint for that purpose, with full power to conclude and definitely to ratify the same.

I also communicated to Colonel Pinkney, the credentials I had received from your Excellency, and requested to be informed, if He was prepared to proceed in the discussion of the proposed arrangements, on the basis therein suggested—or on what terms he would propose to ground the negociations for a cessation of Hostilities—Colonel Pinkney shortly afterward delivered me a note which I have the honor to enclose with a copy

of my answer and I further learnt verbally from that office that it was the intention of the Secretary of State, to have employed Brig. Genl. Winder, as a negociator on this occasion, but that, that officer having proceeded on his Journey to Washington1 had missed a packet addressed to him, to the care of the General Officer commanding on the Frontier—who had in conformity with Instructions from his Government substituted Colonel Pinkney's name, and transmitted for his guidance & information an instruction, containing the principle heads of a convention for a proposed armistice that he possessed no other Documents, nor had he any other knowledge of the views and intentions of his Government. That the express had brought a sealed packet for Brig. Genl. Winder, but that the commanding officer not considering himself at liberty to inspect its contents, had returned it to the Secretary of State, that he had no doubt that the packet contained private & confidential instructions for Genl. Winder who had besides recently held personal interviews with the Minister—but that as he had no clue for his guidance, he felt himself under the necessity of adhering to the strict letter of the only instructions he possessed —vizt, to conclude an armistice that should comprehend the whole Atlantic Coast of America, and that for an indefinite period—to terminate at pleasure, at the expiration of twenty days notice—He however earnestly requested that his objection to the terms proposed by Your Excellency might not be considered as breaking off the negociations, as he felt confident, that Brig. Genl. Winder would still be sent, furnished with information of the views of his Government which he did not think himself at liberty to hazard on conjecture, under these circumstances I thought it would be unavailing to press the subject any further and Col. P. having stated to me his intention of immediately transmitting to his Government the result of our conference, I considered nothing more could be done for the present & returned to Head Quarters.

1 See appendix.

549

While at Champlain I availed myself of the opportunity of learning from Judge Moore the grounds upon which Mr. Munroe had founded his present overture for an armistice, to

have originated in a conversation, in which I was represented to have expressed myself to that effect. The judge assured me that no communication from his could have sanctioned such as assertion that he had mentioned in a letter, the conciliating spirit with which an exchange had been proposed by Your Excellency of Prisoners of War, Hostages as well as others, & added that from the liberal sentiments which appeared to influence your conduct & the general tenor of my conversation, he had no doubt that you would feel inclined to renew the armistice, which had been so wantonly & imprudently rejected by the President by that it could not be expected that any overture of that nature would again originate with Your Excellency. I learned from Judge Moore that the war party was reduced to the lowest ebb and daily becoming moire unpopular so that it was not believed that any offensive measure of my magnitude or for the purpose of Invasion would be again attempted—That all eyes were anxiously directed to the Council of Gottenburg, as their only hope of emancipation.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces—

[C 683-p 83.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston , May 3d 1814

Sir ,

I have the honor to acquaint Your Excellency, that I propose embarking on board the Squadron, as soon as the wind is fair, the following Troops vizt.

Royal Artillery 24

Rocketteers 6

Sappers 20

Regt. de Watteville 450

Glengarry Lt. Infantry 50

Which with the Royal Marines 350

will make disposable force of 900 men, for the purpose of destroying, if possible, the Enemy's magazines, and Stores at Oswego, and along the Southern Coast of Lake Ontario, bringing off, however, such quantities as it may be practicable so to do, particularly of provisions for the relief of our Right Division1 .

1 See appendix.

550

To satisfy myself that as much is done, as can be, I propose embarking myself with Commodore Sir James Yeo; but the immediate command of the troops I have entrusted to Lt. Colonel Fisher of De Watterville's Regt.

By the enclosed copy of Intelligence dated from Sackett's Harbour the 28th ulto. Your Excellency will perceive that a new ship is to be laid down there immediately and finished in six weeks. If such be the case, it is impossible for us to keep pace with such exertions, I must again beg leave to state my opinion, that the only way completely to secure the transquility of the Upper Province is a vigorous combined attack of Army & Navy against the Enemy's chief means of annoyance, their Fleet & Stores at Sackett's Harbour. But on this occasion ample measures must be taken to ensure success; and the small force which the Upper Province can afford, must be assisted by a regular force from Your Excellency of certainly not less than 800 effective men from the Lower Province. In all these opinions I am fully joined by the Naval Commander Sir James Yeo.

Major General Riall has reported to me, that the Enemy are encamped at Buffaloe, with about 800 men & three Field Pieces.

I have the honour to be Sir Your Excellency's most obedient humble Servant Gordon Drummond Lt. General.

Lt. General Sir George Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 683-p 93.]

MAJ. GEN. STOVIN TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston 5th May 1814

Sir ,

I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that Detachment from this Garrison embarked on Tuesday Evening the 3d on board the Fleet—consisting of twenty-four Artillery-non-commissioned, & Privates with one Brass Field 12 Pdr & one 5½ Inch Howitzer under Capt Crittenden.

Twenty Sappers & Miners under Lt. Gosset.

The Rocketteers under Lt. Stevens.

Six Companies of De Watervilles with officers & non-commissioned do. & one Company Glengarry Light Infantry 50 R. & F.

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The whole under the command of Lt. Col. Fisher—De Watterville—

The whole of the Marines were also embarked.

Lt. Genl. Drummond embarked at 5 o'clock on Wednesday Morning & the whole fleet were under still abt. ¼ before six o'clock—the appearance of the Prince Regent & Princess Charlotte on so small a piece was truly magnificent. They appear to sail remarkably well.

They were not out of sight at five o'clock P. M. yesterday. This day about ¼ before 4 o'clock P. M. a heavy firing was heard by many people in the town & party who were out fishing near Long Island in the Battaux passage very distinctly heard a heavy firing abt the same period of time. It appeared to be in direction of Oswego.1

1 The American garrison at Oswego was inadequate force to withstand this attack but they made a stout defense. American loss, 6 killed, 39 wounded, 25 missing. British loss, 19 killed, 64 wounded.

The moment any Despatch arrives it shall be instantly forwarded—or should I obtain any intelligence it shall be immediately communicated to Your Excellency.

As the express goes early tomorrow morning I thought it proper to communicate what I have written

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient Servant Benj. Stovin Maj. Genl.

His Excelly Lt. Genl Sir George Prevost Bart &c &c &c

[C 683-p 97.]

LIEUT. GEN DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*Indians*)

Kingston May 3d 1814.

Sir ,

I am extremely concerned to acquaint Your Excellency that I have received information from the Head of the Lake that col. Elliot, Superintendent for Indian Affairs, has been given over by his Physicians for three successive days.

His very great mental anxiety relative to the Western Indians under his charge, & his bodily exertions beyond what his strength at his advanced age could support, so completely exhausted nature, that I am apprehensive long ere this, His Majesty has lost one of his most faithful & Zealous servants; 552 and before he could have received intelligence of Your Excellency's gracious intentions towards him (with respect to the encrease of his salary) to soothe him in his hours of pain.

Should this melancholy event have taken place, I am extremely apprehensive that serious evils will arise, if Major McKee next in seniority to Colonel Elliot, should succeed to the charge & superintendence of the Western Indians & I know of no other remedy than by appointing Col. Caldwell, who is well known to & by, these Nations, to the situation of Dy. Supt. general of these Indians or in any other manner whereby he would become senior to Capt. McKee.

Major General Riall has directed Col. Claus to proceed to Burlington to assume the general superintendence of the Indians at the Head of the Lake.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellency's Most obedient humble Servant Gordon Drummond Lt. Genl

His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 257-p 250.]

LIEUT. GEN DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*Indians*)

Head Quarters Kingston May 14th 1814

Sir ,

In my letter of the 3d Inst I had the honor to inform your Excellency that Col. Elliot Supt of Indian Affairs was so ill as to be despaired of by the Faculty.

I have now to inform Your Excellency that I have this day received from the Dy. Supt. General, a report of the melancholy event of his death having taken place on the morning of the 7th Inst. and Colonel claus who was ion consequence ordered by Major General Riall to proceed to Burlington, has declared his death to be in too had a state at the present moment to permit of his making that movement. I have therefore in reference to your letter of the 7th inst. to request that your Excellency will be pleased to direct 553 Col. Caldwell to proceed forthwith to the Head of the Lake to take charge of the Indians, with such an appointment as shall place him sufficiently high in the Department as to prevent the possibility of his interfering with Capt. McKee.

I have the honor to be Sir, Your Excellency's most obedt. & most humble Servant

Gordon Drummond Lt. General

P. S. I have the honor to enclose a Return of the Right Division just received

His Excellency Sir Geo. Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C257-p 255.]

REPORT FROM THE INDIAN DEPARTMENT

Three Indians, who arrived at Burlington on the 6th Inst: from Sandy Creek, Saguina Bay, report that Mr. Dickson was at Green Bay during the whole of the winter and that the Weynebaygoes, Folavoines, Chippawas, and all the nations of the North side of Lake Michigan, were with him in the sugar making season, and that he was collecting a great many cattle in the Green Bay settlement.

Thirteen Indians of Naywash's Band arrived at Burlington on the 9th Inst: from Flint River, and say, that they were informed that Two Vessels, and six Gun Boats, with about 300 men, had passed the River St. Clair, about the 22d or 23d April, for Michilimackinae, and that no more than about 250 men remained at Detroit.—These Indians report, that there are about 500 men at Saguina Bay, who are ready to show their attachment to their Great Father, whenever his Troops shall return.—After receiving intelligence of their Great Fathers success at Niagara, and Black Rock, about 12 or 1300 men collected and came forward within a few miles of Detroit; where they waited some time in the expectation that the British Troops would return, as had been intimated to them by Col. Elliott, and having heard a cannonading during two or three hours, they believed, that their friends had arrived, and immediately pushed forward toward Detroit, until they were undeceived by some Frenchman they met.

Immediately after this disappointment, the want of Provisions obliged them to return to their own country— *Marpock* 1 is generally at St. Joseph, but frequently visits the American Garrison at Detroit unsuspected. 70

1 Marpock is undoubtedly Mopock mentioned on pages 216 and 525.

Pipes and messages were received at the several Villages, inviting the people to fix upon a proper place for all the Nations to assemble and smoke together.

The foregoing information given to me by Captain Caldwell of the Indian Department.

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York 14th May 1814

(Signed) W. Claus D. S. G.

[C. 683-p 186.]

MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR TO COLONEL BAYNES

(*War—1812*)

Quebec , May 14th 1814

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th Inst. also copies of the General of the General Orders respecting the Grant of Badges of Distinction—By which I am directed to acquaint you, for the Information of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces what officers were present under the command a Major Gen. Sir Isaac Brock on the under of August 1812, who are in conformity to the accompanying regulations eligible to receive honorary medals."

In complying therewith I beg Leave with due Deference to observe that as the Restrictions I humbly conceive were more immediately calculated for a Force on a larger Scale, than the one on Queenston, a strict adherence to them will exclude Individuals that otherwise according to the Principles of the Regulations and the gracious Intentions of His Royal Highness would be eligible to receive such honorary Badges.

From the insufficiency of the Staff, the services of Individuals extended to the Duties of Ranks higher & to other Departments than those they were in—The Regular and Militia Force united scarcely exceeded, or were more than equivalent to a Battalion of moderate strength—have had a reference to the Acknowledgement made to Individuals in order on the 16th of August 1812, by the generous & just command on that Day, and fully subscribe

thereto. To the Merit & Bravery of some of those Individuals I also have since had reason to speak I have hazarded my opinion & If any Latitude may be given I could mention Individuals, who would in that case be eligible—

I have &c. Henry Proctor

Ed. Baynes A. G. Montreal

[c 683-p 131.]

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RETURN

Return of the officer of the Regular Army present at the Capture of Detroit on the 16th of August 1812 under the command of Maj. Gen. Sir Isaac Brock who in strict conformity to be regulations relative thereto are eligible to receive honorary Medals .

A reference to the Reports & Orders of Maj. Genl Sir Isc Brock.

General Officer

Commanding Officer of Brigade

Commanding Officers of

Artillery Lieutenant Houghton

Engineers Capt Dixon

Quarter Master General——Militia

Asst. Adjutant General—Duties performed by the General's A. D. C.

Military Secretary—Duties performed by the General's P. A. D. C.

Commanding Officer of Battalions or Corps Equivalent thereto

Colonel St. George.

May 15th 1814.

Henry Proctor Major General

[C 683-p 133.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SECRETARY FREER

(*Indians*)

Kingston May 17th 1814.

Sir

The attention of Major General Riall, of Colonel Claus and Colonel Elliott and of Deputy Commissary General Couche,1 having been particularly drawn to the lavish expenditure of Provisions to the Indians (attached to the Right Division) in consequence of your letter of 25th March last, & its enclosed extract of a Letter from Deputy Assistant Commissary General Gilmore, to Commissary General Robinson, I have received frequent reports since, on the subject from the three first mentioned officers; and have the honor to transmit, for the information of His Excellency The Commander of the Forces, the last statement I have obtained; from which it appears to me, that the representation of assistant Commissary General Dance to Major General Riall, & of Deputy Assistant Commissary General Gilmore to the Commissary General, have not been made with that due attention to correctness, which should be deemed requisite on such occasion.

1 Letters dated 4th April 1814, 21st Feb. 1814.

There is not a doubt, but that much of the illness of the late Colonel 556 Elliott was induced by the anxiety of mind which he suffered on this very subject.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obt hum. servant Gordon Drummond M. General.

Captain Freer Mily Secy.

[C 257-p 257.]

FROM MR. MONROE—UNADDRESSED

(*North West*)

Department of State May 16th 1814

Sir ,

Your application under date of the 8th of April last,1 for permission to send a vessel to Michilimackinac, to bring thence a quantity of Skins and furs, collected at that place by your Agents, and secured to you by the articles of capitulation when the post fell into the hands of the Enemy, having been duly considered I have now the pleasure to inform you that the President has decided to authorise you to expedite a vessel to Michilimackinac for the purpose above mentioned, provided you can procure from Sir George Prevost, the Governor General of the Canadas, a document which shall protect your property, during the voyage from all British and Indian annoyance.

1 The furs claimed by Forsyth. Richardson & Co., and McTavish, McGillivray & Co., who applied to Prevost May 7th, 1813, see p. 281. Claim transferred to John Jacob Astor, see pp. 590–1–2.

To facilitate the obtaining of such a document, you will receive herewith a letter addressed to the commanding officer at Plattsburg to be conveyed to him by any agent whom you may designate, instructing him to forward your application to the British commander of the first flag, for the requisite passport.

Presuming that the flag intended for Michilimackinac, must be sent from some part of Lake Erie, instructions will be given to Gen. Harrison and in his absence to Gen. Cass to afford the necessary aid in carrying your object into effect, whenever your agent appears there, with the requisite passport from the British Commander, and your authority to act in it.—

As you claim articles which belonged to you before the post was surrendered, and were secured by the capitulation, it will be proper for you to communicate a complete list to Genl Harrison or to Gov. Cass, as either the one or the other may act in the affair. The flag being under the control of 557 the Government it being a measure taken by it to secure your right, this list will be delivered to the officer who accompanied the flag, who will be directed to see that the articles belonging to you are duly received, and deliver them wherever you may desire within your limits.

Should any other arrangement, which the Government can with propriety adopt be more eligible and convenient to you, on being apprised of it, I shall readily take measures to give it effect.

I have the honor to be Sir very respecty Your mo. obt. Servt (signed) James Monroe

[C 363-p 68.]

MAJ. GEN. RIALL TO LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND

(*War—1812*)

Fort George , May 19th 1814

Sir

I have the honor to transmit you a Report made to me by Colonel Talbot, commanding the Militia in the London District, that on the 14th Inst: a party of the Enemy consisting of about 800 Men had crossed Lake Erie from Presque' Isle and landed near Dover which place together with the Mills & Stores in its neighbourhood they destroyed & after having Committed every other excess possible reimbarked. They showed a disposition to Land again at Turky Point but were it is supposed deterred from doing so by the appearance of a body of Militia & a detachment of the 19th Dragoons whom Colonel Talbot had assembled at that place—When Colonel Talbot had dispatched his Report the Enemy's Vessels were at Anchor at the Extremity of Long Point. Should they again attempt to Land I hope they will be received by a Detachment of Troops & Indians which I ordered from Burlington under the Command of Lieut Colonel Pany 103 Regt upon receiving the first intelligence of their attempt.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient humble servant P. Riall M General

His Honor Lieut Genl. Drummond &c &c

[C 683-p 183.]

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MEMORIAL

(*Indians*)

Province of Lower Canada . To His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bart. Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over the Province of Lower Canada & Upper Canada &c. &c. &c.

The humble memorial of William Caldwell humbly sheweth.

That a report hath prevailed in this city of Quebec that Matthew Elliott Esquire in his life time Superintendent of the Indian Affairs is deceased.

That the different Tribes of Indians that are in the Upper Country have for a considerable number of years considered your memorialist as their Friend. Your memorialist having in the last American War been employed jointly with them against the common Enemy.

That your memorialist for reasons already stated to Your Excellency & being also desirous of being useful to a King and country which he hath served for a number of years humbly prays that Your Excellency may be pleased to grant to your memorialist the situation that Matthew Elliott heretofore enjoyed of Superintendent of the Indian Affairs.

And your memorialist as in duty bound shall ever pray.

Wm. Cladwell .1

1 This is the Col. Caldwell recommended by Gen. Drummond as successor to Col. Elliott.

Quebec 19th May 1814

[C 257-p 260.]

INDIAN SPEECHES—WITHOUT DATE

Speech of the Sioux Chief named the Leaf Indian Name Wabasha

My Father ,

When I heard the good news which my father the Red Head communicated to me I took the same road as my deceased Father used to take to come here; and my arrival is a fine day to me; for I see the good works of my English Father.

You ordered your children to lift the Tomahawk; But as for me I have not yet taken it in hand; it is neither through fear nor laziness; it is because I want strength, I say because I want strength! I have neither arms nor ammunition & that I live at a great distance But I should erc this have begun it, if the want of what I have already mentioned had not prevented me.

It is not from today that I know you My Father; it is since the old Fort was built that you have supported us & we wait for that support this day.

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My Father in speaking to you I say since the old fort was built as also before, for there it was that my deceased Father the Leaf took great pains to support the Sioux Nation; but they had the misfortune to lose him too soon & we have suffered much since that time; more especially so since the Americans have adopted us for their children; but we have the good fortune to have the Red Head for a friend, who in spite of the barriers which the Americans made, always found a passage to come & save the Indians from perishing. At present he is our father. He has had some difficulty to bring the Indians on the right way; but it is requisite that he should have force with him, in order to be attended to—I speak not of my nation for we are his true children.

My father I conclude by pressing your hand & begging you to stretch out your arms in support of your children in the Mississippi.

Speech of the Little Crow, a Sioux Chief Indian name Chatewaconamini

My Father ,

I present myself this day before you this day to talk which gives me much pleasure—I speak of War! For I have already begun—I have sent back the Americans from La Prairie du Chien & then I came here to drive them away. Since then I find this Island more solid than when they were here. I believe that I am now under a clear sky. Last year I undertook

to crush an embarassement that was in the way; but I could not do it, because I found the Americans, like the beaver, burrowed under ground. My thoughts likewise are often turned towards our own side because I fear the Americans who have so fine roads to come to us, which causes me to dread for our women and children.

It would be a great charity on your part my Father, to send some of your big guns and brave warriors to our support. I requested it last year but I have this day to repeat my request.

I have always obeyed your orders which makes me speak with boldness for I speak according to my works.

My Father, You ordered all your Indian Children to be upon a good understanding with each other & live in union, till now I have done so.

To assure you more forcibly my Father, of my deeds, know that I and my young warriors have devoted our bodies to our Father the Red Head.

My Father, We are sorry to learn that we are to have no Trader this year. Although you give assistance to all your children, yet you have too many to take care of before it can reach us.

We have of late not had much assistance through you my Father for one half of our nation have died of hunger with shreds of skin in their mouths 560 for want of other nourishment. I have always thought and do so still, that it arises from no other cause but the troubles you have with the Americans.

Speech of the Manominie Chief named Thomas

My Father ,

It is a long time past that you know us who are called Manominies, & I suppose you are acquainted with our behaviour towards the whites, & particularly towards our English Father.

Shall I tell you my Father that when I beheld the great fire which shined on this Island, its light brought to mind times that are passed & I said to myself—This then is the Fire whose assistance gives life to all the copper coloured skins, & particularly to our nation who have so often had the happiness of seeing & approaching it.

My Father, I give you my hand & in so doing it seems to me that I am giving it to our Great Father.

I consider that we are all created in the same likeness & by the same power & it mortifies me to say that there are some of my *semblables* who have many ears & many hearts.

I speak without hesitation, my Father, because I have but one heart; and two ears to hear with; and I wish that every Chief would be as firm as I am. I call myself happy this day because I have always pressed my English Father's hand & my wish has always been to please you my Father.

My Father, I embrace the present moment to thank our Great Father for the goods which me & my nation have received for a long series of time, and likewise to thank the two persons1 who my Father chose for the taking care of us Indians. I say that I thank them because it is their courage & good hearts which made them proceed in spite of the lateness of the season & its severity, & arrive with the goods destined for us, which saved our lives as well as many other nations

1 R. Dickson Capt. Bullock

Speech of Lassaminie a Chief of the Winibagoes

My Father ,

It is true—We are a nation that is known to be brutes & bad people; but since we have paid attention to your good advice we have begun to behave better—For some time past a thick cloud hovers near our Lands, every time it approaches we go to meet it, & have succeeded so far as to drive it farther from us; but we have lost many of our young warriors. If this had happened to any other nation they perhaps would have asked for goods as a 561 payment for their bodies. As for me, my Father, I speak on behalf of my nation, I only ask for forces to fight the Enemy, and be persuaded that the Tomahawk shall always be lifted up till the period arrives that you will grant peace to the Americans.

My Father, Let some of your Warriors go with us on our Lands. It will be the means of keeping the other nations in respect.

What regards our women & children My Father you know their situation and the need they have of your help.

[C 257-p 268.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston May 21st 1814

Sir ,

I have the honor to transmit herewith the copy of a Report, I have just now received from Colonel Claus, Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs; from whence I am concerned to learn, that the Enemy have passed up the River St. Clair, with two Vessels

and Six Gunboats, containing about 300 men, about the 22d or 23d of Last month for Lake Huron.

Lieut. Colonel McDouall's last Brigade of Boats for Michilimackinac left Nottawasaga, on the 20th of the same month; which I most anxiously hope has arrived at its destination in safety—

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellency's Most obedient humble Servant Gordon Drummond Lt. Genl.

Lieut General Sir George Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 683-p 189.] 71

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COL. BAYNES TO MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR

(*War—1812*)

Head Quarters Montreal 21st May 1814

Sir ,

I am commanded by His Excellency the Commander of the Forces to acquaint you, that he has received the Commands of His Royal Highness the Commander in Chief, by order of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent to assemble a general Court Martial at the earliest convenience for the strict Investigation of Major Genl. Proctor's conduct in the execution of the services entrusted to him, and that he will cause such charges to be preferred against Maj. Genl. Proctor as may appear calculated to meet the Demands of the Public Service and to give that officer an opportunity of vindicating his Character—and his Excelly directs me to inform you, that he will avail himself of the earliest opportunity after the return of the officers late under your Command to carry His Royal Highness's Instructions into effect.

I have the honor to be [Signed] Edwd Baynes A. G. N. A.

Major Gen. Proctor &c. &c. &c.

[C 686-p 40.]

MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR TO COL. BAYNES

(*War—1812*)

Quebec May 25th 1814

Sir ,

I have the honor to acknowledge the Receipt of your Letter of the 21st Instant, and being anxious to prevent any delay of the Opportunity of vindicating my Character, I request that a copy may be sent to me, as soon as possible of the Charges to be preferred, and a list of the evidences to be produced in support of them, that I may be enabled to transmit the names of those I may deem it expedient to call upon, and of those especially who may be at a considerable Distance.

I have the honor to be &c Henry Proctor Major General

Colonel Baynes A. G. Montreal

[C 686-p 41.]

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Statement of Provisions forwarded & Remaining for the Post of Michilimackinac.

Flour Biscuits Pork Salt Rum Blls Bags Barrels Barrels Bags 7 Barrels of 196 lb ea: of 100 lb ea: of 100 lb ea: of 200 lb ea: of 208 lb of 100 lb Barrels contg Gallons 1Forwarded by Colonel McDonall 447 113 45 77 112 20 5 257 Stored at Lake Huron 142 55 74 1 Loaded in Boats at Nottawasauga for Lake Huron on 22d inst 172 At the Landing on Holland River

30 6 Total 791 113 45 132 192 20 6 257 At Nottawasauga Remaining for use of Boatmen 3 6 2 30

1

To be provisioned on the passage to Mackinac from 24 April from this quantity men women children 210 8 7

Forwarded in accordance with the urgent request of Capt. Bullock, Dec. 30th, 1813.

Geo Crookshank D. A. C. G.

York 25th May 1814

[C 683-p 268.]

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LIEUT. COL. MCDONALL TO LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND

(*War—1812*)

Michilimackinac 26th May 1814

My Dear General

The Nancy being just under way, I refer you to my letter to Col. Harvey for the particulars of our voyage. I avail myself of the few minutes left me before she sails, to urge in the strongest terms, the necessity of Mr. Crookshanks being immediately directed to deposit for us at the mouth of the Nottawasaga River, another supply of provisions consisting of from three to four hundred Barrels of Flour and Pork, otherwise this place will soon be in danger from the want of that article, owing to the great issues to the Indians, which I have curtailed as much as possible, even at the risque of offending them. I also daily expect Mr. Dickson, with from three to four hundred more, which will increase our issues to about 1600 p day. Mr Crookshank should also be directed to send us

20 stand of arms, left at Lake Simcoe

The stocks and clasps I ordered.

200 pairs more shoes, & 400 more American socks.

A good supply of leather to repair the others, there not being any here.

As much of the Flour and Pork should be in Bags as possible, to store in Canoes, as I may have no other means of getting them.

Ten Casks of Rum, of about 16 Gallons each.

No step has been taken to fit out the Nancy, her former Commdr Capt. McIntosh gave his opinion that she was not fit to cut down, or worth it, and I silently asquisced in Lieut. Poyntzs opinion, that even if fitted out, she could not show herself before the force which the Enemy could bring against her, because I derive more advantage from the guns on shore than I have any hope of doing from her being equipped with them. I most heartily wish that Sir James again had the pertinacious Lieut:1 that he unfortunately sent me, who, full of his own consequence, as commanding on Lake Huron, (Commanding what? not a vessel) and a great stickler for naval etiquette, is constantly disposed to cavil, and on the watch for opportunities in his naval capacity, to oppose what I wish, I have had on that account, much difficulty in getting the Nancy sent this trip. Indeed I should have sent the Gentn back in her, only I could not well spare in our circumstances, the twenty seamen, and they would not be willing to serve under a military officer; It is necessary that he should return, and that a deserving midshipman, or some one *explicitily under my orders* , be sent out in his place, or that part of the service cannot go on. Lieut. Pointz told me on the passage,

1 “Pertinacious Lieutenant” Poyntz, whose first name nowhere appears on the records.

565 that he conceived he commanded *all afloat* , and of course the whole expedition, when we move in Batteaux. I shall state these matters by the Express Canoe to his Excellency—I have sent two canoes to ascertain what they are doing at Detroit and the River St. Clair. Should they be establishing themselves at the latter place, uncountenanced by a naval Force, it may be in our power to interupt them, on Mr. Dicksons arrival, but, if well protected in that way, it would be a hazardous attempt, as our Batteaux may be destroyed, and our retreat cut off.

Believe me to be &c (Signed)Rt. McDonall

Lt. General Drummond

[C 683-p 264.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston May 27th 1814—

Sir ,

In my letter which I had the honor to address to Your Excellency, on the 21st Inst, I stated, that a force of the enemy, at that time supposed to be about 300, had landed near Dover, on Lake Erie. I have now the honor to transmit a letter from Major General Riall, covering a report of Colonel Talbot, commanding the Militia of the London District, on the subject. Your Excellency will, however, perceive, that the force of the Enemy has been since computed to consist of about 800 men, whose conduct has been disgraced during their short stay ashore, by every act of wanton barbarity & of illiberal & unjustifiable outrage. Not only a large store, fitted up as a Barrack for Militia but every private house and other building belonging to the peaceable Inhabitants of the village, and neighbourhood of Dover has been reduced to ashes, together with Ryarse's and Finches Mills between that place

and Turkey Point. The Court House & Public Buildings at Turkey Point were only saved by the appearance of the Militia, and a Detachment of the 19th Light Dragoons; both of which Corps I have very great satisfaction in acquainting Your Excellency, evinced the strongest anxiety to come in contact with the enemy.

I have likewise received the most satisfactory accounts from Lieut. Col. Parry of the 103d Regiment, relative to the conduct of the Grenadier Company of that Corps, and the Light Company of the 89th placed under his immediate orders—The latter he says are wild but with attention and management perfectly tractable & orderly—And Lieut. Col. Parry bestows much 566 commendation on the zeal, and alacrity with which the Militia assembled, considering the distance from whence they were to be collected—The Lieut. Colonel from all these circumstances feels convinced that had not the Enemy retired to their Shipping, before his arrival, his little band encreased by a few of the Rangers and of the Kent Volunteers, as well as of some persons, and some Wyandot Indians, who joined him from Amherstburg, would have made the Enemy pay dear for their outrages. He states that but one house in which a sick woman resided, was left standing between Paterson's Creek & Turkey Point. And the Enemy on retiring avowed their intention to destroy Port Talbot in a similar manner. And as their officers appeared determined to pursue the same system throughout the whole of the Western Frontier, I feel convinced that nothing but the most vigorous opposition to such disgraceful proceedings will prevent a recurrence of them—The accompanying declaration made by Col. Holmes commanding at Amherstburg, to the Inhabitants of the new Settlement is a proof of the Enemy's nefarious intentions.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellencys most obedient humble servant Gordon Drummond Lt. General

His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 683-p 196.]

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LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston May 28th 1814

Sir

I have been hitherto prevented the honor of replying to your Excellency's letter of the 7th of April last, from the total want of document, or other means, to ascertain what militia officers, coming under the description specified in His Royal Highness, The Prince Regent's Instructions for the Distribution of medals or Badges, were engaged in the capture of Detroit.

But having ordered a reference to be made on the subject to Lieut. Colonel Nichol, Quarter Master General of Militia, I find them to be as follows, and presume it to be correct. I conceive, however, that Major General Proctor, 567 who was second in command on that occasion, could afford every requisite information.

Lieut. Col: Robert Nichol Quarter Mr Genl

Major Ebenezer Reynolds, commanding Detachments of Regiments of Essex Militia

Major “—” Salmon1 commg Detachments of 1st & 2nd Norfolk 5th Lincoln, and York, Regiments of Militia

1 The full name is Major George C. Salmon.

Colonel Matthew Elliott, Essex Militia, but at the time, Commanding the Indian warriors of the Western Tribes

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I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellency's most obedient humble servant Gordon Drummond Lt. Genl.

His Excellency Sir Geo. Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 683-p 206.]

FROM COLONEL BAYNES

(*Prize Property*)

Montreal 29th May 1814

G. O.

His Excellency the Commander of the Forces has been pleased to authorize the payment of the first dividend of the proceeds of the Prize property Captured from the Enemy at Michilimackinac on the 17th July 1812, by the Detachment of Troops and Volunteers under the Command of Captain Roberts of the 10th Royal Veteran Battalion; the Officers and men entitled to a portion of this Booty will receive the amount of their respective Shares from Noah Freer Esq. Prize Agent being for this Issue Ten Pounds Currency to each private.

A distribution has been directed to be made of the proceeds of the public property Captured from the Enemy at Salmon River on the 14th & 15th February 1814 by the Detachment under Major Cockburn of the Canadian Fencibles; to each Private—Thirteen Shillings Currency.

and also of the proceeds of the Booty captured from the Enemy at Salmon River, Malone and the Four Corners between the 19th and 24th February 568 1814 by the Troops under

the Command of Colonel Scott of the 103rd Regiment—to each Private Five Shillings and Six Pence Currency.

(signed) Edward Baynes Adjt General

[Freer papers, 1814-p 50.]

FROM COLONEL NICHOL—UNADDRESSED

(*War—1812*)

Kingston , May 30th 1814

Sir ,

In obedience to your Honor's Commands I have very maturely deliberated on the practicability of constructing vessels to enable us to regain our Naval superiority on Lakes Erie & Huron; but the more I consider the subject the stronger is my conviction of the impossibility of making any material progress this season. Under this impression it is my decided opinion that you ought to limit our operations in that service to the providing and collecting materials and stores necessary to enable us to commence building the moment the navigation of the Upper Lakes shall be closed for the Season—

My reasons for forming this opinion are, the want of a proper place to lay down vessels where they can be protected from the Enemy. The time it will require to get the materials & stores to the spot; and the difficulty of transporting through bad roads, the Guns, Ammunition, Anchors, Cables and other heavy articles necessary for their equipment—

The first objection may be obviated, by fortifying Turkey Point on Lake Erie,1 which is in reality the only place at which such an establishment can be formed.

1 In the vicinity of Port Stanley.

Turkey Point I am convinced can in a short time be fortified so as to render the yard perfectly secure; but of this an officer of Engineers will be the best Judge. This once done the work can go on without interruption—The vicinity abounds with the finest ship timber, whether for building or masting & all stores may be transported from Burlington to that place with more facility than to any other part of Lake Erie.

The only sides from which in winter an attack is to be apprehended on Turkey Point, are by the Thames & by crossing on the Ice above Fort Erie.

In the Spring of 1812 I surveyed the Harbour and Entrance & delivered a chart of the same to the late M. Genl. Brock. I found nowhere on the bar 569 less than 18 feet of water, though the Lake was that season very high, 15 feet however may be always reckoned on.

At the deep hole where the yard should be, you have 7 Fathoms & the Bank is so perpendicular that a large vessel may be with her Broadside touching the Land.

In the Bason there is room & water for the whole Royal Navy sheltered from every wind.

I would suggest that an officer of Engineers & one of the Royal Navy should jointly survey the Harbour & Ground in the neighbourhood to ascertain the practicability of defending it against any attack, & should they report favourably, that immediate measures be adopted for constructing the necessary works for its defence. The defences being constructed, the stores necessary for building should be forwarded.

The iron work lately arrived from England would greatly facilitate the work.

It is not for me to say what force ought to be built, but I should consider Two Frigates of the class of the Princess Charlotte; two of the class of the Wolfe, with a few Gun vessels, as fully adequate to the proposed end, for the enemy can build no vessel larger than these they now have, at any other place than Amherstburg or Detroit, and I think we have the means of preventing their doing so at either of these two places.

In addition to the establishment at Long Point, I should strongly recommend the formation of one at Penetanguishene1 on Lake Huron. The road however, to the north of Lake Simcoe, which is I understand about 24 miles, should be previously opened. A flotilla on Lake Huron will be found of great service, both as it respects offensive & defensive operations. The remoteness of the situation will keep the enemy ignorant of our movements; The communication between York and the North Western Part of the Province will be secured, and a check at the same time be established on the Enemy's operations, which must put him to very great inconvenience and trouble. Penetanguishene & the country around abounds in fine situations for grist & saw mills, which will be of great utility to our establishment there; and the naval establishment at that place will greatly facilitate any movements that may hereafter be contemplated against the Enemy's Possessions in the Michigan Territory.

1 Georgian bay region. Simcoe county, Ontario.

I have the honor to be &c &c &c (Signed) R. Nichol Q. M. G. Militia

[C 683-p 251.] 72

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LIEUT. COL. NICHOL TO LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND

Copy of a Report made to Lieut General Drummond on the construction of vessels on the Lakes Erie and Huron.

Kingston May 30 1814

Sir ,

In obedience to your commands I have the honor to report that I have maturely considered the practicability of constructing vessels to enable us to regain our Naval Superiority on the

Lakes Erie and Huron, but the more I think on the subject the stronger is my conviction of the impossibility of making any material progress therein this Season.

Under this impression it is my decided opinion that we ought to limit our efforts in that service to the providing and collecting the Stores and other materials, so as to be enabled to commence building the moment the navigation of the Upper Lakes shall have been closed for the Season.

My reasons for forming this opinion are

1st The want of a proper place to lay down vessels, where they can be protected from the Enemy.

2nd The time it will require to get the necessary materials and Stores to the spot, and the difficulty of transporting through bad roads—the guns, ammunition, Anchors, Cables, and other heavy articles necessary for their equipment.

The first objection may be obviated by fortifying Turkey Point on Lake Erie which is in my opinion the only place on that Lake where such an Establishment can with convenience, and safety be formed. A Depot and Shipyard at that place could I am persuaded be rendered perfectly secure, the vicinity abounds with every Species of the finest Timber for naval purposes, and all the Stores required for building or equipping vessels may be transported to that place with greater facility than to any other on Lake Erie—York during the winter will be perfectly safe and its Garrison will be disposable for the defence of Turkey Point.

I can speak with certainty as to the ease with which every species of stores may be transported from Burlington to Turkey Point during the Summer. Guns and Anchors and Cables excepted, and even these may be transported but nothing of that kind excepting the guns required for the works before the winter at which time every species of equipment may be taken forward with the greatest ease.

In the Spring of 1812 I surveyed the harbor and entrance, and delivered a Chart of the same to the late Major General Sir Isaac Brock I found no where on the Bar less than Eighteen feet Water, tho' the Lake was then 571 high—Fifteen feet may however always be depended upon, and at the deep Hole where the Yard ought to be—You may Launch into seven Fathoms Water, and a first rate may lay afloat with her side touching the Shore.

Captain Barclay ordered the harbour to be surveyed last year, and was much pleased with it.

I would therefore suggest that an officer of Engineers and one of the Royal Navy should Jointly survey the harbour and possibility of defending it, and in the Event of their reporting favourably that immediate Measures be adopted to provide for its defence. The Stores necessary for the Equipment of Vessels may then be taken forward. The iron work which has come from England for the Frigates and Sloops will be of the greatest advantage, and the work greatly facilitated. Two Frigates and two Sloops of War with some Gun Vessels will be all we shall require. The Enemy can build nothing larger than what they at present have unless at Amherstburg or Detroit and I think we possess the means of preventing their doing so at either of those places.

In addition to the Establishment at Long Point. I would strongly recommend the formation of one at Penetanguishene the road however to the North of Lake Simcoe should be previously opened— a Flotilla on Lake Huron will be found of the greatest utility—and from the remoteness of the Situation the Enemy will never be correctly informed of Your movements. The communication with the Northern & Western Countries will then be secured and a check established on the Enemy's operations in that direction, that must put him to the greatest inconvenience.

The country in the neighborhood of Penetanguishene is admirably calculated for cultivation it abounds in fine mill Streams, and will if encouraged in a short time afford abundant supplies for our Posts on the Upper Lakes. and the Naval Establishment at that place will

greatly facilitate any movements that may hereafter be contemplated against the Enemy's possessions in the Territory of Michigan.

I have the honor to remain with great respect (signed) Rob. Nichol 1 Lt. Col. & Q. M. G. Militia

1 Col. Nichol's suggestions were invariably given attention and credence. He was at first of the Norfolk militia; served at the capture of Detroit. Brock recommended Nichol to Gen. Prevost as “perfectly qualified to afford information about the Western district.”

To His Honor Lt. Genl. Drummond &c.

[C 702-p 79.]

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LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston May 31st 1814

Sir ,

I have the honor to transmit herewith, for Your Excellency's Information, the deposition of Mr. Mathias Steele, of Woodhouse in the District of London, Agent to the property of Lieut Colonel Nichol at Dover, who was on the spot at the time the Enemy landed there on the 14th Instant, and which I feel satisfied is perfectly correct.

Commodore Sir James Yeo was still in close blockade of Sackets' Harbour, when the last accounts from him arrived. I am fully of Your Excellency's opinion, that under existing circumstances, it is the best method of procedure against the Enemy, unless, as I have

already observed, a formidable combined attack could be directed against that vital part of their Frontier.

For the present I have directed four large boats to be fitted out for the projection of Rockets against the Enemy's shipping. They appeared to me, when reconnoitering them, to be much crowded in the Harbour; and consequently liable to annoyance from those destructive yet uncertain engines. I am in hopes the boats will be in readiness by tomorrow when I propose sending Lieutenant Stevens, and a party of Rocketeers to try the effect of their weapons.

I will send directions to Commodore Sir James Yeo, at the same time, to cover the boats with his Squadron during the attack.

I am happy to hear that the Guns & Stores for the new Ship on the Stocks here, may be expected to arrive at so early a period at Kingston.

But the Commanding Engineer, Captain Marlow, has strongly represented to me the total impossibility of his proceeding on the Land Works of Defence of this Post, if the manufactory of the carriages for those Guns are imposed upon him. In fact the public service and the works have been very considerably impeded, and retarded already, by the constant attention which was required, in making, fitting, remaking and altering the Gun Carriages, called for by the Naval Department—I trust therefore, that Your Excellency, seeing the necessity of the measure, will order the Gun Carriages for the new ship to be completed in every particular at Quebec and Montreal, or at all events, prior to the arrival of the Guns at Kingston.

I have communicated Your Excellency's opinion, relative to the blockade of Sackets' Harbour, to Commodore Sir James Yeo. By the last accounts from him which arrived on the 29th Inst., it appears that the Rigging of the Enemy's new Ship, Superior, is not yet

either over her Fore mast, or 573 Main mast; but from her depth in the water, it is thought that many of her Guns & Stores, have been taken on board.

Our new Ship on the stocks here, has many of her Timbers already up; but so many Shipwrights and other artificers have left the Dockyard, in consequence of their agreement for Work upon the ships lately launched having been fulfilled, I am apprehensive that the business of the Naval Department will be very much delayed, as far as relates to the new vessel unless Shipwrights are sent up from the Lower Province; or those said to be on their way from England arrive without delay.

I am concerned to say that the Moira & Beresford &c which some time since proceeded from hence to the Head of the Lake, with Provisions for the Right Division and part of the 103d Regiment have not yet returned—Their delay has caused me some uneasiness, as I am extremely anxious to push forward as much Pork as possible to Niagara, as well as the remainder of the 103d Regiment, during the continuance of our ascendancy on the Lake—

I have had a communication from Major General Riall, of the 25th Inst wherein he states, that on the 23d three large Vessels were standing in for Turkey Point; but that Lieut. Colonel Parry with his small force, the Militia, and Indians had no apprehension whatever of any numbers, which could be conveyed in them—These vessels stood off again, without making any attempt to land their Troops—

It having been considered necessary, however, to reinforce the Detachment of Royals, at Burford, from Burlington; and as this latter place could but ill spare any drafts from its Garrison, occupied in the protection of its Depot, and in guarding a number of civil Prisoners, at present under trial for Treasonable Practices, at Ancaster, the Major General considered it necessary to move forward two Companies of the 41st Regiment from York, until the arrival of the 103d Regt. at the Head of the Lake—

The Wyandot Indians who lately arrived at the Beach amount to 90. They say that many more would join them; but that they are too closely watched by the Americans.

The Chiefs Blackbird1 & Spitlog,1 who were with us last year have joined the Enemy.

1 See appendix.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellency's most obedient humble servant Gordon Drummond Lt. Genl.

His Excellency Sir Geo. Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 683-p. 209.]

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Enclosed Deposition

Midland District

Personally appeared before me the Honorable Richard Cartwright one of His Majesty's Justices assigned to keep the peace in and for the said District—Mathias Steel of Woodhouse in the London District of Upper Canada Gentleman, who being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists, deposeth & saith. That on Saturday the fourteenth of this present month an American force computed at about 800 men and consisting of Regulars, Militia and Seamen, the whole under the command of a Colonel Campbell,1 disembarked at the mouth of Patterson's creek from six Schooners, where they embarked for the night. That having met with no opposition, they on the following morning advanced and took possession of the village of Dover—and having plundered the houses of all the Inhabitants & carried off all their provisions & set fire to the village and entirely destroyed it they then proceeded to Ryerson's Mills situated a little further up the Lake & set fire to & destroyed them with several other buildings & proceeding still further up the Lake destroyed another

set of Mills belonging to Mr. Finch. He further deposeth & saith that to the best of his knowledge & belief they destroyed altogether—Twenty Dwelling Houses—Three Flour Mills—Three Saw Mills—Three Distilleries—Twelve Barns & a number of other buildings. He further deposeth & saith that they shot all the cows & Hogs which they could find leaving them to rot on the ground. And further that on the said Colonel Campbell's being asked the reason of this wanton and barbarous conduct—where he had met with no opposition he answered that it was done in retaliation for the burning of Havre de Grace—Buffaloe & Lewis Town—and further this deponent saith not— Mathias Steel .

1 See appendix.

Sworn before me at Kingston in the said District this 31st day of May. 1814— Richard Cartwright J. P.

[C 683-p 213.]

COL. BAYNES TO MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR

(*War—1812*)

Montreal June 1st 1814

Sir ,

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter and to inform you that I have laid it before the Commander of the Forces, and His Excellency desires me to inform you that he cannot comply with your Request of furnishing you 575 with a copy of the specific Charges to be exhibited against you, as they will in a great degree depend upon the Statement & Information to be obtained from the officers not yet returned; as soon as they are prepared by the Dy. Judge Advocate, and received His Excellency's sanction they shall be communicated to you—

I have the honor to be (Signed) Edwd Baynes A. G. N. A.

Major General Proctor &c. &c. &c.

[C 686-p. 42.]

MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR TO COL BAYNES

(*War—1812*)

Quebec June 2d 1814—

Sir ,

The Anxiety which I feel that the Proceedings of the General Court Martial, ordered by His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, for the Purposes specified in your Letter of the 21st Ulto. may be subjected to the least possible delay, from the Absence or Remoteness of material Witnesses induces me to request that you will submit to His Excellency the Commander of the Forces, for his consideration in determining the Place where the Court shall sit, that a considerable number of witnesses whose Testimony will materially serve to complete my defence are actually resident in Upper Canada, and that it will be difficult and in some cases impossible to obtain their Attendance in Lower Canada—

I have the honor to be &c Henry Proctor M. Genl—

Colonel Baynes A. G. Montreal

[C 686-p 43.]

COL. BAYNES TO MAJ. GEN. PROCTOR

(*War—1812*)

Adj. General's Office Head Quarters Montreal June 3d 1814

Sir ,

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of this—Instant, which I have laid before the commander of the Forces, and His Excellency desires me to 576 inform you, that it is his intention to render the Investigation as full & complete as the circumstances of the service will admit, in order to meet the instructions of the Commander in Chief; but as it will be necessary to assemble for that purpose a very considerable Proportion of the Senior Officers in the command, it will not be possible under existing circumstances to assemble a General Court Martial in Upper Canada as suggested by you.

I have the honor to be (Signed) Edwd Baynes A. G. N. A.

Major General Proctor &c. &c. &c.

[C 686-p 44.]

MR. MOLLOY TO SECRETARY FREER

(*Indians*)

Montreal June 2nd 1814.

Sir ,

I humbly beg leave to write to you to request you will please look over the enclosed certificates for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Chief &c. &c. in hopes he will please to order me some allowance for the loss of my baggage & effects when captured by the enemy in 1812, as certified, which was considerable, I being annually travelling & meeting great delays I require much clothing &c & which was near by costing me my life I being laid up by severe illness, & my life or recovery despaired of, some

months after my arrival in Montreal owing to great fatigue & misery of a journey of five hundred miles on foot from Fort Erie, after my exchange as I was captured in the faithful performance of my Government duty &c. & as is well known to Sir John Johnson & with regard to my illness to him & Dr Kennelly &c. it being late in the fall & beginning of winter when the roads are bad. Captain Basden's certificate will show I was ordered back to Kingston with the goods late last Fall, when near York by Maj. Genl de Rottenburg & for good reasons I knew, as it was then reported Genl Harrison was advancing for Burlington Heights, &c. where I was bound with the goods. So I returned back above a hundred miles with the batteaux & goods before receiving counter orders to return in advance again & which contributed to detain me till late in the last Winter again & which caused much expense also, & I being now bound again on the same long & rough journey again on my usual duty I humbly pray thro' you His Excellency 577 would please take my case into consideration & comply as it may seem meet to him and

am Sir Your obedient & very humble servant to command James Molloy Conductor Ind. Dept

Captain Freer Mily. Secy.

[C 257-p. 282.]

CAPTAIN BULLOCK TO SECRETARY FREER

(*Canadian Troops*)

Michilimackinac 2nd June 1814

Sir ,

Herewith I send you the Muster Rolls. & Pay List of the Michigan Fencibles from 25th January to 24th May 1814, for the amount of each I have signed bills on the Pay Master General Quebec.—

I have the honor to be Sir Your very obedt Servant Richd Bullock Capt 41st Regt

Noah Freer Esqr Military Secretary Quebec

[C 700-p 65.]

MEMORIAL

Fort Michilimackinac [Michigan Territory] 2nd June 1814

To His Excellency Sir George Prevost Governor General and Commander in Chief of His Majestys Forces in British North America &c.—

The Memorial of Lieut Joseph Lambeth 10th Royal Vn. Battn—

Sheweth

That your Memorialist being stationed at the Island of St. Josephs under the Command of Captain Charles Roberts of Said Regiment on the 12th July 1812 when the Expedition was forming to come against this place 73 578 your Memorialist was appointed by the officer— to do the duty of Garrison a Fort Adjutant and his zeal and Perseverance in Capturing the Fort is well known to Captain Roberts as likewise to all the gentlemen who took part in the same.—

Your Memorialist was ordered out and captured on the 20th & 21st same month two Sloops on their way down from Chicago Loaded with Peltteries &c. which Vessels were taken into Government Service.—

Your Memorialist was ordered to continue the Duty of Adjutant by Captain Bullock 41st Regiment when he took the Command of the Post. And that he has superintended the drilling of the Canadian Volunteers and also the Michigan Fencibles by the direction of Captain Roberts and Captain Bullock—and has made application through both these officers—that some allowance might be granted him for this extra service.—

As your Memorialist has received no answer—and Lieut Colonel McDonall having arrived and taken the Command of this Post—has appointed Lieut. Bulger1 of the Rl. New fD Land Regt Fort Adjutant at the allowance of Five Shillings pr. Diem until your Excellencys pleasure be made known—and as the Colonel has been pleased to Promise that he would Interest himself in your Memorialist's behalf your Memorialist addresses this to you through Lieut. Coln. McDonall and is encouraged to look up with pleasing hopes that your Excellency will in your known goodness reward the merits of a small portion of the Long and Faithful services of an Old Veteran and be pleased to grant him such allowance as your Superior Judgment may think proper.

1 Captain A. H. Bulger afterwards distinguished himself in the capture of the Scorpion and Tigress, near Mackinac, Sept. 7, 1814. Made captain and placed in “command of the Mississippi” at Prairie du Chien Dec. 14, 1814, and proclaims martial law there.

J. Lambeth Lieut. 10th R. V. Battn.

I recommend Lt. Lambeth to His Excellency for *some remuneration* for the period he acted as Fort Adjt. being an attentive officer who has zealously exerted himself to the best of his abilities.—

Rt. Mcdonall Lt. Col. Comg.

Mackina 2d June 1814.

5 s per day from the Capture of Mackinac until Lt. B.s appointment.

[C 231-p 75.]

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EARL BATHURST TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Downing Street 3 June 1814.

No. 67.

Sir ,

I have received and laid before the Prince Regent your dispatches from No 129 to No 141 inclusive with the exception only of No 1311 which has not yet reached me.

1 Since received.

As I learn from your more recent dispatches that the state of the weather has been such as to prevent the execution of the plan formed for the destruction of the Enemy's Fleet on Lake Erie it is unnecessary for me to advert to that subject further than to express my satisfaction at the perfect coincidence which prevailed on this point between yourself & His Majesty's Government.

I had some time previous to the receipt of your last dispatches anticipated the retreat of General Wilkinson's Army. The circumstance which induced that officer to abandon a position which he had so long maintained under severe privation and difficulty and the loss of stores and provisions which was the consequence of its abandonment lead me to believe that he will not for some time at least feel himself in a situation to disturb the Frontiers of Lower Canada.

It gives His Majesty's Government much concern that so general a disposition to desert should prevail in some of the Regiments under your command the Battalions however which have since embarked for Canada2 are composed of a very different description of men from that which you state the 103d to consist of, and as you will by this accession of force be at liberty to place any regiments of doubtful character in situations less exposed to temptation, I trust that the character of the army under your command will not again suffer so materially from the conduct of any Regiments.

2 Veterans from European campaigns.

I have in another dispatch stated the measures which have been taken for obviating your want of Specie and Provisions and I shall take the earliest opportunity of conveying to you the Instructions of His Majesty's Govt. on those parts of your dispatches which refer to the civil administration of the colony—.

I have &c (Signed) Bathurst

His Excellency Sir Geo. Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 683-p 232.]

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COMMODORE YEO TO LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND

(*War—1812*)

Prince Regent at Anchor off Sackett's Harbour June 3d 1814

Sir ,

The Enemy's Squadron being now nearly ready for sea, and it being too late for any joint attack on the Enemy's Force at Sackett's Harbour, I conceive it necessary to determine in

what way His Majesty's Naval Force can best be employed to defeat the Enemy's views, and protect this Province, I transmit you herewith a statement of their Force, on which it is unnecessary for me to make any comment.

There are two things to be considered, 1st what the Enemy's Squadron can effect, before our large ship is ready. 2nd What object we have for risking an action with our present force, when we will so soon have the superiority.

From the large reinforcements Government are sending to this Country, it appears to me to be their wish, that a respectable naval force should be established to meet the Enemy, and that any rash, ill-timed, or unnecessary risk, would defeat their views. The Enemy are not in sufficient force to undertake any expedition in the face of our present squadron, but any disaster on our side, might give them a serious ascendency.

In making this communication I trust you will give me credit, when I assure you I do not write from the feeling of a Captain of a Ship, but consider myself placed here in a highly responsible position, as commanding the naval force in this country, on which most materially depends the safety or loss of this Province.1

1 See appendix.

I therefore require of you Sir, as the general officer with whom I am acting, your opinion on the several points in my letter, I shall at all times be ready to take the squadron into action, whenever the general officer with whom I am acting represents to me that he thinks it necessary for the good of the service, and safety of the Colony, but such sanction or authority under existing circumstances I will require as I never can take the whole responsibility on myself.

I have the honor to be &c. &c. (signed) James L. Yeo Commodore & Comr in Chief

Lt. Genl. Drummond &c. &c. &c.

A Statement of the American Naval Force, in addition to their old squadron 3rd June 1814

Ships names No of Guns Description of Guns &c. Superior 64 Long 32 and 24 Pounders Jefferson 24 22–42 Pds canonades 1 long 24 pds Brigs 1 “ 18 “ Jones 22 20–42 Pds canonades 1 long 24-1 long 18— Name unknown1 52 To be launched in a few days.

1 Name was the Mohawk: launched June 11, 1814. She carried 42 guns, not 52.

[C 683-p 239.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston June 4th 1814

Sir

I have directed Major Genl. Riall to send a flag of Truce to Presqe' Isle to call upon the officers commanding there to state, upon what pretext the outrages committed at Dover were permitted; & whether they were perpetrated by Colonel Campbell, (who commanded on the spot) by sanction of the American Government, or without any such authority.

I have the honor to be &c Gordon Drummond Lt General

His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bt & & &

[C 683-p 234.]

SPEECH DELIVERED BY LT. COLONEL McDOUALL TO THE INDIAN CHIEFS AND WARRIORS AT MICHILIMACKINAC, JUNE 5, 1814

My Children

I embrace the opportunity when we are here met to celebrate the Birth Day of the King, your great Father, to reply to the words which you lately addressed to me: on this happy occasion, I am proud to see such an assemblage of distinguished Chiefs & Warriors around me, many of whom have already signalized their valor in his service during this war. I thank you all 582 for your past services, but particularly for the proof of loyalty and attachment you have shown in hastening to the defence of the Island when threatened by the enemy. You have now proved that you merit the benevolence & kindness with which your Great Father has always treated you; be assured that the interests of his red children will never be forgotten by him, that he will keep his word, & the promises which he has made you, My Children.

Listen to my words, that I may make you acquainted with the auspicious events which have lately taken place. Your Great Father Sir George Prevost had received powerful reinforcements, and was at the Head of a large Army of Your White Bretheren, who have again defeated the Americans, in another attempt to invade Lower Canada. Kingston and Fort George are now places of great strength, and contain formidable Garrisons; we are in possession of the whole Niagara Frontier and also of its harbour, which the enemy last year found so advantageous. Our Fleets on Lake Ontario are also more numerous, and stronger than those of the Enemy. the important Fort of Oswego has lately been taken from them by our ships, while theirs dare not stir from the shelter of their harbours.

My children,

Every thing looks well for us, the black & louring clouds that spread darkness around us are dispersed, and we have once more over our heads a clear and serene sky. The Great spirit shines on our just cause, but frowns on that of the deceitful Americans because they have cruelly oppressed you, they have robbed you of those lands which you inherited from your brave ancestors, and still they are not satisfied, the fertile Country which they have usurped, only encrease their appetite for fresh encroachments, and you will gradually be driven the sitting sun.—My Children, You possess the Warlike spirit of your Fathers, you

can only avoid this horrible fate, by joining hand in hand with my warriors in first driving the Big Knives from this Island, & again opening the great road to your Country. I shall then be enabled liberally to supply your wants; You will once more see the Traders in your Villages, with Amunition for yourselves, and clothing for your women & children; the days of your prosperity will return, and the sons song and the dance be again heard in your land.

My Children,

The time is favourable for this, and will soon arrive. The King your great Father has destroyed his foes on the other side of the big Lake: He is now the most powerful monarch in the world; and has no other Enemy but the Americans. You know we were often victorious over them when but few in numbers, how then will they stand against the invincible warriors & the mighty Fleets which are now coming against them? Already 583 they tremble at the thoughts of this, and know not which way to turn to escape the tremendous vengence which they know they have deserved. They are conscious that resistance is vain, and that their power compared to that of King George, is like dust before the wind.—They therefore wish to lay down to Tomahawk & treat for peace.

My Children,

I have heard of the message which the Americans have lately sent to your red Bretheren; it is sufficiently humiliating, for it acknowledges their incapacity to carry on the war with the King Your Great Father: it likewise shews their usual disregard to truth, for they say that when a peace is made, he will withdraw, from you, and that then they will punish all those who do not now renounce our friendship.

My Children,

When these perfidious people fail in war, they try to succeed by artifice & cunning, qualities to which they excel all other nations. You must therefore beware how you are

deceived by their stratagems, which is meant to sow dissention among the tribes, in order that one after the other, they more easily become the victims of their treachery. My Children, I again ask, which of you can be so blind & infatuated, as not to see that the big Knives, will never be satisfied, until they possess all your lands, and destroy you root and branch from the face of the earth. They have no pity for you, and openly avow this wicked intention. Which of you do not know that it is the powerful protection of the King your great Father, which has hitherto saved you from this miserable fate, and which can only save you from it in future.

My Children,

Listen well to my words, none of you must be misled by this deceitful message, for it will be dangerous for you to go astray into the wrong road, and difficult for you to return. What is there in it, but a convincing proof that the power of the Enemy is on the decline, and instead of intimidating your young men, should inspire them with fresh courage to get back their old boundaries, & restore the days of plenty and happiness among you;

Listen again my children, the time is at hand when these great blessings can be recovered.

My Children,

Should the King your great Father deign to listen to the proposal which the Enemy have made for peace, it will be on the express condition that your interests shall be first considered, your just claims admitted, and no infringements of your rights permitted in future. My Child doubt not but this will be the case. The King your great Father has assured you that 584 he will never abandon his red children whom he has so long fostered and adopted. The Great Chief at Quebec, Sir George Prevost has also given his word to the same effect, this ought to sett your minds at rest upon the subject, for they are not the promises of the faithless Americans but of those who hate duplicity & falsehood.

My Children,

I opened my ears and listened attentively to the words which you addressed to me. I was moved with compassion when you told me of your want and distresses last winter, & that some of the supplies intended for you did not reach you owing to the distance. Now that you are here, I will endeavour to make up as well as I can for the disappointment and to give you proofs of my esteem, and of the confidence which I place in your valor and courage.

My Children,

I am highly pleased that you have listened to the wise councils of your friend and chief the Red Head, whose constant study is for your advantage and to do you good. Your Great Father at Quebec has confidence in him, and in appointing him your chief, has given you a strong proof of his paternal regard. My childn I wish you to show your gratitude, by obeying him in all things that he wishes you to do. I recommend to you that the utmost friendship and harmony prevail among the different tribes, and that the young men do not disgrace themselves by any disturbance or impropriety of conduct. It is proper that they should listen to the voice of their Chiefs & of their Fathers, & derive instructions from their Council and experience.

My Children,

I am delighted with what your Great Chief the Red Head has told me, that in your wars with the Big Knives you have been equally distinguished by your bravery in the field and by your mercy to the vanquished; that in no one instance has their helpless women and children sustained an injury. Let me exhort you to a continuance of this praiseworthy conduct, which is the more meritorious on your part, considering the provocation which the enemy have given you.

My Children,

Happy are those warriors who rush into the fight, having justice upon their side, you go forth to combat for the tombs of your forefathers, and for those lands, which ought now to afford shelter and sustenance to your wives and children. May the Great Spirit give you strength and courage in so good a cause, and crown you with victory in the day of Battle.

[C 257-p 272.]

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MEMORIAL

To His Excellency Sir George Prevost Baronet, and Commander in Chief in and for the Province of Lower Canada &c. &c. &c.

The Memorial of Angelique Beauchamp widow of the late Charles Reaume.1

1 See appendix.

Most humbly sheweth,

That the late Charles Reaume her husband was for upwards of fourty nine years in His Majesty's service as Interpreter of the Indians at Detroit in Upper Canada. That last Fall at the time of the Invasion of Detroit by the Enemy he was compell to leave his house with his family & such effects as he could save from plunder: that he was afterwards ordered to leave his property behind & to follow General Proctor's army in its retreat.

That after enduring much fatigue and distress he arrived with Your Memorialist and two nieces at Kingston, where he died on the twentieth day of December last, aged seventy years. That Your Memorialist & her nieces have ever since that time been in the greatest indigence & distress.

And Your Memorialist most humbly solicits Your Excellency will grant her some indemnity for losses or recompence for past services of her husband or pecuniary assistance for her support & that of her family, in such manner as to Your Excellency in Your wisdom shall seem meet & Your Memorialist with due gratitude for such favour as may be conferred upon her as in duty bound will ever pray.

Angelique Beauchamp veuve reaume

Montreal 5th June 1814

[C 257-p 284.]

Memorandum

Memorandum to be annexd to the Petition to His Excellency.

The late Charles Reaume my husband with the petitioner and family consisting of two nieces left detroit about the middle of September last, to follow General Proctor to *La Riviere a la Tranche* (Thames), we had taken with us in one Barge & three carriages, part of our Furniture & Effects the most valuable, we expected to remain there to await a better time.

We had scarcely been there fifteen days when General Proctor ordered us to make our escape & leave everything we had behind. We arrived at Kingston in the beginning of December last, where my husband died of fatigue which his old age couldt bear. I estimate the loss we suffered about Five Hundred Pounds Cy.

Angelique Beauchamp veuve de réaume.

Montreal 5th June 1814

[C 257-p 286.] 74

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO COMMODORE YEO

(*War—1812*)

Head Quarters Upper Canada Kingston 6th June 1814

Sir

Your letter of the 3d Inst. has received my most serious attention.

So long as your position off Sackett's Harbour was found to distress the Enemy, and to retard the armament & equipment of his new ships, so long it appeared to me that the Blockade ought to be maintained, and so long, in fact, no risk whatever could attend it.

It appearing, however from your letter, that the Enemy's Squadron, including his new ship (Superior) and Brings, is now ready for sea, it is evident the Blcokade has not had all the effect to which we looked, and moreover, that it can no longer be maintained, without risqueing an action with a squadron, quite equal if not superior to that under your command, and under circumstances on our part of decided disadvantage. With regard to the probable objects of the Enemy, and to what their squadron may be able to effect, I am of opinion that whatever may be their ultimate views, they will not undertake any offensive operations until their second large ship is ready, and even then I am very much disposed to concur with you in thinking that they will scarce return, in the face of your present squadron and with the knowledge of the powerful addition to it which is in rapid progress, to encumber theirs with Troops & other means necessary for the invasion of any part of this Province.

It follows, therefore, as my opinion, and I have no hesitation in giving it as such, that there exists at present no motive or object connected with the security of this Province, which can make it necessary for you to act otherwise than cautiously on the *defensive* (but at the

same time closely watching all their movements) until the moment arrives, when by the addition of the large ship now on the stocks, you may bring the naval contest on this Lake fairly to issue, or by a powerful combined Expedition, (if the Enemy as is probable, should decline meeting you on the Lake) we may attack and destroy him in his strong hold.1

1 See appendix.

In thus frankly giving you my ideas, as to the line of conduct which it would be prudent & proper for you as Commodore of His Majesty's naval Force in this Province, to pursue it is scarcely necessary for me to observe that circumstances may arise which may render it expedient and necessary to adopt a widely different system (such for instance as the relief of the 587 necessities of the advanced division, an Expedition against Sackett's Harbour &c. &c. &c.

But these circumstances as they may arise will be discussed by us with those feelings of perfect good understanding and cordiality which have, I think I may affirm ever existed betwixt us & which to me has been a source of great satisfaction and confidence.

I have the honor to be &c. &c. &c. (Signed) Gordon Drummond Lt. General

Commodore Sir James L. Yeo. &c. &c. &c.

[C 683-p 242.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston June 7th 1814

Sir ,

I have the honor to transmit herewith a letter (in copy) from Commodore Sir James Yeo, covering a statement of the Enemy's Naval Force, in addition to their old Squadron, at present preparing for service on Lake Ontario; and requiring of me as the General officer, with whom he is acting, my opinion, with regard to the employment of the Squadron, as soon as the superiority of the Enemy's Fleet appears unequivocal—

Coinciding with the Commodore in the propriety of not risking an action, until our Ship on the stocks here, shall have joined the Squadron, I have communicated my opinion to Sir James Yeo accordingly; a copy of which I have the honor to enclose, for your Excellency's information; and I request to be favored with Your Excellency's ideas and instructions on this important subject.

The Commodore, in consideration of the Enemy's new Ship, Superior, being, with the rest of their Fleet afloat, ready to take the Lake, has not judged it prudent any longer to continue off Sackett's Harbour; and has, therefore come over to the Upper Gap, where the Squadron is now at anchor, as well to protect the supplies proceeding upwards to the Right Division, 588 as to receive the Seamen on board, who have lately arrived from England—

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellency's most obedient humble Servant Gordon Drummond Lt. Genl.

His Excellency Sir Geo. Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 683-p 245.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston June 7th 1814.

Sir ,

In reference to Your Excellency's communication on the subject of the formation of a Naval Establishment on Lake Erie, I have the honor to submit a Report made to me by Lt. Col. Nichol, Quarter Master General of Militia, relative thereto.—That Officer being possessed of much local Information I considered him most capable of affording under existing circumstances, the best opinion—

It is now decidedly too late to attempt building any description of Vessel, for service on that Lake this Year. But as soon as we have the superiority on Lake Ontario, by the accession to the Squadron of the new ship on the Stocks, Guns, Rigging & other Stores may be transported by water, to the Head of the Lake, for the purpose of being forwarded by Land carriage during the ensuing winter, to Turkey Point; the most eligible spot, by far, in my opinion, for the establishment of a Dock Yard; and the building should commence instantly on the closing of the navigation of the Lake—But prior to these undertakings, a strong work must be erected under the eye of an able Engineer; which must be defended by a strong garrison, and well supplied with Commissariat Stores & Provisions.

I will have the honor to transmit Your Excellency a Sketch of the proposed Scite of the Dock Yard at Turkey Point, by the next express—

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellencys most obedient humble Servant Gordon Drummond Lt. Genl.

His Excellency Sir Geo. Prevost Bart &c &c &c

[C 683-p 255.]

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LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston June 7th 1814

Sir

By a report I have received from the Right Division, I find that the Traitor Westbrook,1 who formerly lived near Delaware Town, made his appearance with about 30 Riflemen of the enemy at Port Talbot, on the evening of the 30th ultimo; where they made Prisoners Capt. Wilson of the Militia & the Miller, as also Capt. Patterson at the house of Col. Talbot. The miller effected his escape; but the others were obliged to take an oath similar to that administered to the Inhabitants of the new settlement, under pain of their houses being immediately burnt as well as all others in the neighbourhood. This party come from the westward; did but little damage; and returned after a very short stay, through apprehension of their retreat being cut off, by the assembling of the Militia, on the information of the man who made his escape.

1 See appendix.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellency's most obedient humble servant Gordon Drummond Lt General

His Excellency Sir Geo. Prevost Bart &c &c &c

[C 683-p 258.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's Letter of the 6th Instant; and equally with Your Excellency regret the unfortunate result of the enterprize by the Boats of the Squadron, under the command of Captains Popham & Spilsburg.1

The Enemy, by every account received, having given up their intention of cutting a road from the Falls of Oswego to Sackett's Harbour, had the principal part of their stores conveyed back by the Oneida Lake to Rome, for Land conveyance, and I conceive those which lately made their escape from Oswego to Sandy Greek, to have consisted of a single brigade of boats 590 only, determined upon the attempt, in consequence of the absence of our cruizers from the neighbourhood of the former place; which it is to be regretted was not more closely watched by a naval force from our Squadron.

Captain Davis, Royal Navy, passed this place yesterday and Captain Hickey, this morning with the Reinforcements of Seamen for the Squadron at the upper Gap.

I have the honor to transmit herewith, agreeable to Your Excellency's directions, the latest returns I possess of provisions with the Right & Centre Divisions; as well as a return of the Provisions already forwarded, and remaining at Nottawasaga Bay &c for the post of Michillimackinac—and I have directed Deputy Commissary General Couch to take measures for forwarding a constant supply to that place—

I have the honor to enclose the copy of a Letter, I this day received from Lt. Col. McDonall. The conduct of Lieut Poyntz, of the Royal Navy, appears to have been extremely offensive. I have written to Sir James Yeo to request he will relieve that officer by one less disposed to assume so unnecessary a degree of unsuitable consequence.

The enclosed is the latest information I have received from Sackett's Harbour.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellency's Most obedient humble servant Gordon Drummond Lt. Genl

Library of Congress

His Excellency Sir Geo. Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 683-p 270.]

TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*North West*)

Montreal 8th June 1814

Sir

We have the Honor of laying before Your Excellency Copy of a Letter from the Secretary of State at Washington to John Jacob Astor1 Esq. of New York dated the 21st May last containing a permission from the President of the United States to that Gentleman, to send an American Vessel under the Protection of a Flag of Truce from some Port or place on Lake Erie to Michilimakinac for the sole purpose of taking on Board certain Furs & Skins

1 See appendix.

591 which have been collected at that Place, the property of the said John Jacob Astor,1 and for conveying the same to some convenient Port on Lake Erie—This permission has been obtained from the American Government on condition that Your Excellency will be pleased to grant a document which shall secure the Vessels & Property from all British and Indian annoyances during her voyage.

1 See appendix.

Representing Mr. Astor on this occasion we take the liberty of requesting Your Excellency's sanction to the permission which he has thus obtained from His Government, and as it is impossible to state correctly the number of Skins or the kinds, which may have been collected by agents of Mr. Astor at Michilimakinac, we request that Mr. Toussaint Pothier acting for the American Fur Company & for Mr. Astor—or such other person as

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may be stationed at Michilimakinac to represent us, may have leave from the officer commanding His Majesty's Forces on Lake Huron, to ship on board the said Vessel such Furs and Skins, as he may have in his charge, on giving a correct List of the same to the Commanding officer to be signed by him, and received by the officer who may have charge of the Flag of Truce—

We have the Honor to be Your Excellency's most obedient and very humble Serts

McTavish McGillivary & Co

Forsyth Richardson & Co

His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 363-p 71.]

Order

The Flag of truce when she arrives off the *Isle dud Bois Blanc* 2 must cast anchor and be immediately reported to the Commanding Officer of Michilimakinac. He will send an officer and Guard on Board—both for the purpose of protecting her against the Indians—and to prevent any improper communication with the Shore—Her lading must be got ready with all possible Expedition and Col McDonal will direct her to a convenient place for taking it aboard.

2 Near Mackinac island.

Buffaloe and Black Rock will be the most convenient places for her to return to—No person on board should on any account have permission to be allowed to hold any communication with Indians, indeed it will contribute much to the safety of the Vessel if she avoids falling in with any of 592 them on her passage, as she may in that case run a risk against which Government cannot protect her.

Montreal 8th June 1814

[C 363-p 67.]

MAJ. GEN. RIALL TO THE OFFICER COMMANDING AT PRESQUE ISLE

(*War—1812*)

Head Quarters Niagara Frontier June 9 1814

Sir,

The detachment of the United States Army which lately made a landing at Dover on Lake Erie having committed acts of Outrage on the Private property of the unoffending Inhabitants by burning and destroying that Village & the Mills in that vicinity, I have it in command to request from you an Explicit declaration whether those acts were Authorised by the Government of the United States.

(Signed) P. Riall M. G.

Officer Comg The Troops United States Presqu 'Isle

[C 684-p 19.]

COLONEL CAMPBELL TO MAJOR GEN. RIALL

(*War—1812*)

June 16th, 1814

Sir

I have had the honor to receive your communication of the 9th current. I commanded the Detachment of the United States Army which lately made a landing at Dover on Lake Erie. What was done at that place and its vicinity proceeded from my orders. The whole business was planned by myself & executed upon my own responsibility.

I have the honor to be Sir Your very humble servt John B. Campbell Co: 11th Regt U. S. Inft

Major Genl Riall Commg B. Forces Niagara Frontier

[C 684-p 20.]

593

SPEECH TO INDIANS

Extract of a speech delivered to the Western Warriors at Burlington by

Colonel Caldwell Acting Dy. Supt. Genl. on the 14th June 1814.

Children,

I am informed that Captain Norton who has been appointed to lead the Six Nations has given in returns of a great many Western Indians as having joined him & put themselves under his protection. Now I wish to know from yourselves if this is the case. I have nothing to say against Capt. Norton but as I have been appointed to Superintend & take care of the *Western Indians* I wish to comply with my orders, but if any of you wish to separate yourself from your Brethren, you must let it be known at once, as you cannot be furnished with provisions & clothing by both. Provisions as I have already told you must be saved as much as possible, the fact is they are just as necessary to enable us to fight as powder & Ball.

Answer of Neywash on the Part of the Western Indians to the foregoing.

Father, As to the Snipe (Captain Norton having got some of our young men to join him, I only say he speaks loud & has strong milk, & big Breasts which yield plentifully. You know Father, your Children are fond of milk & he gives when they go to him, & promises them Provisions as they want & goods at discretion. If you will do so Father they will not go to him, but we cannot keep our young men in our hands. Now Father I have told you the cause of their going to the Snipe.

[C 257-p 303.]

MR. DICKSON TO SECRETARY FREER

(*Indians*)

Michilimackinac June 18th 1814.

Sir

I had the honor of addressing you, last by Captain Lamotte, since which time nothing of any importance has occurred here.—The Indians have assembled here, in numbers from all quarters, and are much disappointed at the Enemy not making his appearance as was expected, and they are now much inclined to meet him half way; Lieut. Col. McDonall has wrote you fully respecting the situation of this country, it is therefore unnecessary for me to enter into the detail; You will please inform His Excellency the Commander of the Forces, that the Indians in the Interior having little or 75 594 no support from Traders this year, that if the beneficient hand of Government, is not again stretched out for their Aid—Their situation must be distressing & desperate, although some of the tribes were partly gained over to remain quiet—after the unforeseen events that took place at Detroit last fall, still these are now come round, and almost all the Indian Nations, are now unanimous, in the present contest. The Indians are much pleased with the manner in which they have been

treated by Lt. Col. McDonall, since his arrival here, and I find the greatest satisfaction in conducting the Indian Business, in conjunction with him.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obet humble Servt R. Dickson

Noah Freer Esqr Mil Secty

[C 257-p 287.]

FROM COL. CALDWELL—UNADDRESSED

(*Indians*)

Burlington 22d June 1814.

Sir,

The enclosed is a return of the Indians who have proceeded to the Lines and also is enclosed a return of those who remain at home. I have remarked on the return of those who went to the Lines that the Shawanese &c were debauched by the Emmissaries of Mr. Norton,1 & I again repeat that he uses means for that purpose which are calculated to draw all our nations away.

1 The acting deputy superintendent general of Indians considers Norton too lavish. But Norton, with H. R. H., the Prince Regent's kind expressions, believes in keeping it up.

All who have joined him were completely clothed from the Stores at the Beach, each man woman & child had a suit. He has again given them their share of three eighths & wants one fourth of all now remaining for the same purpose. What is to become of those now daily expected from the westward should he again get this fourth? It appears to be his wish to gain over the Western Indians at any rate, & make the Govt. pay any price his ambition will impose.

I am careful not to show to our Indians any anxiety or uneasiness on the subject of their joining Capt. Norton because such conduct would make them suppose that a Party Spirit and not true Patriotism prevailed amongst us, & that we could not act with unanimity among ourselves. Such an opinion if is entertained by them I well know would be attended with 595 beneficial1 consequences, & they would place no confidence in a Government split into parties.

1 Baleful?

I have &c (Signed) Wm. Caldwell a. D. S. G.

[C 257-p 302.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*Indians*)

Kingston July 2nd 1814

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith the copy of an interesting Letter I received from Lt. Col. McDonall from Michilimackinac. I am apprehensive his Indian allies, unless he can find some method of employing them so as they may in a greater degree supply themselves with food, will cause him some uneasiness & difficulties with regard to provisions. To enable him to meet all their demands, however, as much as possible, I have given directions to Dy. Commy. Couche to take measures for sending a constant supply to his Post; & I understand Dy. Assist. Commy Genl. Crookshank is at Nottawasaga at present on this business; as well as for the purpose of improving the Road at that Place from Lake Simcoe.

I have likewise the honor to enclose a copy of Intelligence received this day from Sacketts Harbour.

I have the Honor to be Sir Your Excellency's most obedient humble Servant Gordon Drummond Lt. General

His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bart &c &c &c

[C 257-p 295.]

596

UNADDRESSED AND WITHOUT SIGNATURE

(*Indians*)

“I have to inform the General, that having the Five Nations & their “Associates in Council at the Grand River,1 I firstly informed them of the “recent glorious success in Europe, & of the accomplishment of the desire “of Great Britain, & that she was now in friendship & alliance with all the “World, & at War with America alone.”

1 Large tracts of land in the Grand River region were given the Indians during the Revolutionary War as compensation for the losses of territory they had sustained in New York state by allying themselves with the British cause.

“I then acquainted the Five Nations particularly with the proposals I “laid before His Excellency, & his decision thereon, excepting what related “to the Senecas, which I thought improper to expose in public, before any “thing had been accomplished.”

“The next day having assembled, the speaker arose, & in behalf of the “whole spoke as follows”

“Brother,”

“We heard with great satisfaction the account you gave us yesterday “of the glorious conclusion of the campaign & of the War across the "Great Water—We rejoice at the success of our Father, that he has overcomes "his Enemies in that quarter & look forward with warm hopes to his "future exertion in these Parts, which we entreat the Great Spirit to favour "with his aid.”

“Brother”

“We also heard with pleasure the account you gave us of your "representation to the Great Chief at Quebec, & of his favourable decision “thereon—We thank him, both with respect to that which concerns us, and “also as it regards our Brethren to the South West, and we rejoice at seeing “you again among us, ready to lead us, & empowered to take care of us, “which desire of the Great Chief we confirm with pleasure in the name of all “our Tribes, and we request you will inform him of the same, & send these “strings of Wampum as an Emblem of what we say”

“Brother”

“We conclude in assuring you that we shall shut our Ears to the “chattering of evil Birds, & request that you will do the same, so that “nothing in future may disturb our mutual friendship”

[C 257-p 291.]

597

COL. BAYNES TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*Settlers*)

Montreal , 18th June 1814

Sir,

I take the liberty of representing to Your Excellency that anxious to keep the Glengarry Light Infantry Fencibles effective in the Field, I have resorted to every means I could devise, and have spared neither trouble nor expense to promote the recruiting of the corps, the little success that has attended these exertions is to be attributed to the following causes:—

First—The great Desertion that has taken place in these Provinces, particularly in Upper Canada, to the United States, from a predilection in favor of that country from whence the majority of the settlers originally emigrated, and to avoid serving in the Militia.—

Secondly:—In consequence of the formation of three new corps of Fencible Infantry, besides several independent Troops and companies, in addition to the ordinary recruiting of Fencible corps and 104th Regiment:—and

Thirdly—from the very strong bodies of Militia held in permanent service the residue of that description of population most likely to enlist into His Majesty's service, has been engrossed in the Establishment, for if not balloted to serve as a militia man, they are induced from the enormous Bounties to be obtained to engage as substitutes—in several Instances, Fifty pounds has been given to serve for one year.

The Casualties in the Glengarry Light Infantry have been very great, both from the loss in the Field & Deaths, occasioned by the hardships incident to the Campaign; and I regret to say that Desertion has proved a great drain to all the corps employed on the Frontier duties.—

Under these circumstances I conceive it to be impracticable by any exertion of ordinary Recruiting in the Canadas to keep up the Establishment of the Regiment on active

Service and I am therefore led respectfully to submit the following observations for Your Excellency's consideration:—

I would recommend that a recruiting company be added to the Establishment of the Glengarry Light Infantry—Its parties to be confined to the places in Scotland & Ireland from whence the great influx of emigration flows to the United States and that its recruiting be restricted exclusively to that description of people. That the Term of Service be for Five years, and one hundred acres of waste Lands of the Crown, be confirmed to the solider at the expiration of that period. A Ticket of Location specifying the precise lot, but not transferrable should be given to the soldier on joining the Head Quarters of the corps—as it is conceived that the Land would 598 be the chief inducement it is imagined that a low Rate of Bounty would suffice for the Levy.

From the very extensive Frontier of Upper Canada, and its thickly wooded nature, a Frontier Light infantry is particularly adapted for the service of that province—Troops of the line taken indiscriminately, and without local knowledge, are ill qualified for discharging that species of service & it is a mortifying fact, but unfortunately too well established by experience, that the ideal blandishments of the United States, which are most insiduously inculcated into the minds of our soldiers is so powerful an incitement that the corps of the highest established reputation & discipline have not escaped the mortifying disgrace of frequent Desertions. The Troops employed on this Frontier ought if possible to be selected of men whose allegiance and attachment can be confided in, as it is always in their power from the nature of their duties to Desert whenever they please, a local interest in the country is probably the best security that can be resorted to:—The Resources of the two Provinces are very dissimilar,—Lower Canada affords in its native Inhabitants ample means for the formation of excellent Light Troops, for its own frontier duties, and the Canadian if he deserts it is generally to get home, and not towards the Enemy;—In the Upper Province the population is very scanty, and with the exception of the Eastern District, are chiefly of American extraction, these settlers have been suffered to introduce themselves in such numbers, that in most parts (with the exception above alluded to)

they form the Majority and in many almost the sole population.—A military force formed of other materials could be but little depended upon, and this has been very generally exemplified in some of the most populous parts of the settlements, when two thirds of the Inhabitants have absconded, abandoning valuable Farms, and in repeated instances have seduced and assisted the soldiers to accompany them—even members of the Provincial Legislature have deserted to the Enemy, and his chief source of information is drawn from the disaffected settlers that remain. This impolitic system had been suffered to grow to such an extent, that, had it not been checked by the war, a few years would have rendered Upper Canada a complete American colony; indeed that had been so nearly accomplished on the important line of communication between Kingston & Cornwall that had it not been for the counterpoise afforded by the Loyal Scots Settlers of that place, Stormont & Glengarry it would have been impracticable to have preserved the communication with the Upper Province, & this intercourse once interrupted, it would have been impossible for the Upper Province to have long sustained itself, as it is well ascertained that the several predatory incursions of the Enemy 599 between Kingston & Brockville were perpetrated with the connaivance & aid of settlers in that neighborhood.

The high value and estimation in which the Loyal settler is deservedly held, has been placed in the most conspicuous point of view by the contrast it has formed with the American Interloper, industriously undermining the fidelity of his neighbors by diseminating Democracy, affording intelligence to the Enemy, and frequently concluding his career by going over to him, while those who have been most distinguished by their Loyalty & courage are very generally the descendants of the military settlers who sought an asylum in Upper Canada after the American Rebellion, for there is little Emigration from Great Britain to these Colonies. These loyal settlers view with jealousy and alarm the rapid influx in the Province of those men of democratic principles, who subverted the happy constitution under which they lived in America, and drove them to abandon their paternal dwellings and seek a refuge in the Forests of Canada, again threatening to

disturb that peaceful competancy which they have with the sweat of their brow wrung from the wilderness.

The increasing influence of the American settlers in this Province, if suffered to prevail, must in its inevitable consequences alienate it from the Mother Country & betray it with its resources to the encroaching power of the United States, nor has the Government at Washington endeavoured to conceal, that upon the aid of the strong American Faction already fostered in the bosom of the Colony—she looked principally for an easy & certain subjugation of the Province.

There are extensive tracts of waste land in the Upper Province so critically situated, that it is an object of the first importance & policy to prevent them falling into the hands of the American settlers & encourage British subjects to establish themselves upon them. Of this description among the most conspicuous are Wolf or Long Island & the Island in the vicinity of Kingston, which is in itself the Key & most important position of the Province, and its ultimate security will be greatly augmented or diminished in proportion to the character of the population with which it is to be surrounded.—An establishment of disbanded soldiers on these Islands could not fail of being attended with the most beneficial effects, and they are capable of affording accommodation for many thousand families.—There are some who set up pretensions to these Lands, founded on the purchase of the original French grants for some trifling consideration, but it is doubtful if any Legal Titles exist, and their right in the soil so little respected, that the few settlers who have established themselves are Americans, & hold their Tenure in dispute of the pretended proprietors.—If strong and efficient 600 measures are not resorted to, the whole of this important tract will, at no very distant period, be filled with American Inter-lopers.

The most practicable & perhaps the only efficient mode, is the one suggested, of establishing on these Island Disbanded Soldiers. The Independent Settler who can choose his location will never consent to become a Borderer on critical positions, subjecting him to the risk & inconvenience inseparable from a state of hostility. These objections have not

the same weight in the decision of the American. A hollow Pretence of Allegiance affords him certain protection on the one side, while his origin and known secret principles screen him from all risks of insult or molestation on the other. This fact has been verified in the most glaring and unequivocal manner in the several predatory incursions of the Enemy where the Inhabitants distinguished for their zeal & loyalty have been wantonly insulted, plundered & carried away prisoners, while the habitations of the disaffected were passed by unmolested, & in some instances the unworthy proprietors have been rewarded with the Plunder which the Enemy would not carry away.

A Corps kept upon the Establishment herein proposed, it is conceived, would prove of essential utility for the discharge of various branches of service for which it is calculated & thereby prevent the necessity of dispersing a Regiment of the Line, in widely detached quarters & in desultory duties, —& so strongly am I impressed with the many important advantages that would ultimately result from settling disbanded Soldiers on the Waste Lands of Upper Canada that I am almost inclined to consider the second stage of his services, as likely to be attended with more real utility to the State than the first.—
A respectable Carrier so constituted can alone secure that Frontier from danger, the disbanded Soldier has the advantage in this point of view, over the ordinary Settler—he inspires from his former habits a military & loyal spirit, & forms a steady point of appui for the Militia to rally upon.

Under this impression, I beg leave respectfully to submit for consideration the advantage that would accrue, when Regiments of the Line are to be relieved from North America, by permitting soldiers whose term of service is expired or nearly so, who have families and are of industrious habits to settle on the waste Lands in Upper Canada affording them such aid in the commencement of their establishment as would be commensurate to the expense of their passage to England, and the pension of the soldier for his past services, if they entitle them to receive it.1

1 Col. Baynes' plan is deeply studied; his conclusions are well adapted to promote the cause he has at heart.

It may appear at first sight rather paradoxical to object to the introduction of Gentlemen of influence in this Province into this Corps—The formation of an Establishment of this description has been long with them a 601 favorite object. It is however reasonable to infer from the experience to be drawn from the Corps of incorporated Militia that a Regiment so constituted could never attain that state of discipline and consequent utility to qualify it for the present object, a Frontier Light Infantry; the want of early Military experience combined with the strong ties & prejudices which their Colonial Interests & connections cannot fail of producing must even render them ineligible as officers, except in corps of Embodied Militia, as has been exemplified in the inefficiency of the corps above alluded to, which have never rendered any service, adequate to their establishment, and but for the constant control of Officers of the Line would have dwindled into a perfect abuse.—

Should these suggestions be deemed by Your Excellency worthy of your most serious consideration. I trust that it will not appear presumptuous in me to add, that the Glengarry Light Infantry presents a favourable opportunity of trying the experiment on the plan proposed, without inconvenience or any additional expense to Government. The corps possesses some valuable materials, and although very far from having attained the state or order it is susceptible of, it has nevertheless with all its imperfections, never failed in the hour of trial to manifest a gallant devotion to its first duty, which in a young Levy, must be allowed, like charity, to cover a multitude of sins.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect Your Excellency's most obedient humble Servant (Signed) Edward Baynes colonel Gleny Light Infantry

Endorsed:—From Colonel Baynes to His Excellency the Comr of the Forces dated Montreal 18th June 1814.

On the subject of settling the waste Lands of U. Canada (especially the frontier positions) with disbanded soldiers.

[C 621-p 10.]

COMMODORE YEO TO LIEUTENANT WORSLEY

H. M. S. Prince Regent Kingston 2nd July 1814.

Sir

In addition to the instructions already given you, it is my most positive orders and directions, that you comply with all requisitions made to you 73 602 from time to time by L. Colonel McDonall or the officer commanding the Military Post at Michilimackinac1

1 See appendix.

I am Sir &c (Signed) James Lucas Yeo commodore & Commander in Chief

Lieut Worsley Commandg Naval Force on Lake Huron

[C 684-p 33.]

FROM LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND—UNADDRESSED

(*War—1812*)

Kingston July 5, 1814.

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of the letter, addressed to the officer commanding at Presque Isle, by Major General Riall, on the subject of the conduct of

the Detachment of the Enemy's Troops, which some time since landed at Turkey Island, together with Colonel Campbells reply thereto.

This latter was received by Major General Riall in the state I now forward it to your Excellency. It appearing to have the seal of General Brown affixed to it; and as it enclosed a New York Newspaper; the supposition is, that General Brown drew his pen across the insolent observation of the latter part of it.

Major General Riall reports, that the Enemy broke up from Buffaloe on the 27th Ultimo: and has proceeded to Eleven Mile Creek.—From thence to the mouth of the Tonnewanto2 —is only six miles of a good road; where it is thought they will collect their Boats, for the purpose of crossing over, between Navy, and Grand, Islands.—

2 Tonawanda.

The Major General directed Lieutenant Colonel Pearson to make a reconnoisance, from Niagara Fort; but nothing extraordinary was discovered within a Circuit of 6 miles from the Place.—The Lake Erie Squadron, with troops on Board, sailed from Presque Isle, on the 20th Ultimo; report said for Michilimackinac, and Matchedash, on Lake Huron.—Nine Gun-Boats, carrying heavy metal, were at Buffaloe.—The Force of the Enemy computed at nearly 5000.—

Capt. Crowther of the 41st Regt has arrived at Niagara; and is anxious to obtain a sanction from superior authority to return to his duty; as he 603 conceives the Parole exacted of him to be even more particular, than that given to the other officers, who came in before him.

On the relief of the King's Regiment, Major General Riall considered it advisable, in which I fully concur with him, to place to 100th Regt. at Chippawa, & Fort Erie, the Incorporated Militia (now in an admirable state of discipline and efficiency, under Capt Robinson, of the King's Regiment,) with the Light Companies of the Royals, & 100th under the command

of Lieut Colonel Pearson, between those places; Lieut. Col. Tucker, with the 41st Regt. at Fort Niagara; and Lieut. Col. Hamilton at Long Point.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellency's most obedt humble servant Gordon Drummond Lt General

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston July 7th 1814—

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's Letter of the 4th Inst. Had the force specified in the margin arrived, during our naval superiority, I should then have had it in my power, to have struck such a blow, at Sackett's Harbour, as would have decided, I think, the present contest. As matters now are, with a decided naval ascendency on the part of the Enemy, and with the various additions and improvements which they are daily making to the Defences of that place, instead of 4,000 effective Troops, which I long since stated to Your Excellency, would be requisite, in my opinion, to ensure success, I now consider that not less than 5000 would be sufficient, independent of artillery & Indians. And with regard to a movement towards Detroit, I do not conceive, that an undertaking of the kind can well, at the present time, be attempted, or until the Right Division has received such Reinforcements as would admit of its detaching so strong a corps as would be requisite; and I am apprehensive the commissariat would find it a most difficult matter to afford the necessary supplies to the Troops.

It is most gratifying to learn from Your Excellency that your apprehensions with regard to the supplies for the army & navy have been removed.

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I have the honor to enclose a copy of a letter1 from Commodore Sir James Yeo, to Lieut Worsey, the officer of the Royal Navy appointed to Lake Huron, directing him to comply with all requisitions of Lieut. Col. McDonall.

1 2nd July 1814.

On the subject of the Naval Establishment at Turkey Point, I have the honor to enclose a copy of my letter to Sir James Yeo with the Commodore's reply. He proposes sending immediately a Foreman of the Dockyard, and a few Artificers for the purpose of cutting Timber in the Woods for building.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellency's most obedient humble servant Gordon Drummond lt. General

His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 684-p 37.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Confidential .

Dear Sir ,

Your Excellency will receive by the same conveyance Maj. Genl. Riall's official report of his attack on the Enemy in their position at Streets' Creek.

The conduct of the Troops & Militia appears to have been highly creditable; and nothing but the exceedingly unequal numbers of the Enemy could have prevented the attack having been crowned with complete success.

Our artillery was well served, and a disabled Brass 24 Pounder, which had its Limber blown up, was saved, principally by the exertions of Major Lisle of the 19th Light Dragoons.

The enemy deployed into line, and withstood our attacks with the greatest steadiness.

They are now understood to be establishing Batteries, under cover of the Wood, in front of the position at Chippawa; from which Maj. Genl. Riall is apprehensive he will be under the necessity of retiring; as his force is so considerably diminished, from the casulties of the action, and from the Fall of Fort Erie—

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I regret extremely the loss of this place;1 which I had the strongest hopes would have made an excellent defence, or at all events held the Enemy in check for some days—I felt the more confident in this expectation from Captain Marlow's Report of it, on his return from that Frontier.

1 See appendix.

Our Indian Allies, as usual proved of little service. There were but few on the ground; about 200 under Norton, and about 100 of the Western Tribes; and these penetrated too far into the woods to afford the assistance required of them.

I perceive that the Maj. General has omitted in the haste of transmission, I presume, the numbers he had on the ground. The Royals took into the field about 500, half of whom have been killed or are disabled for the present; the 100th I suppose about 450, have suffered in even a greater proportion, and have not now morethan four duty officers remaining; the Kings I imagine to have been, from the Embarkation Returns from York, about 400, has not experienced much loss. These with the Artillery 19th Dragoons, & Lincoln Militia, would constitute a force of about 1500.

I beg, therefore, again to request, that every absent officer of these corps be ordered to join forthwith; as well as Lieut Col. Ogilvy, of the Kings Regt. Colonel Young being on his way from York to Montreal, and there being consequently but one field officer with the Regiment.

I have been happy to learn the arrival at Queenston of the Incorporated Militia under Capt. Robinson of the Kings Regiment. This is the only disposable corps I had left to send. But as soon as the 89th which leaves this today, under Lieut. Col. Morrison arrives at York, I propose pushing forward the Glengarry Light Infantry to Burlington to support Maj. Genl. Riall, or with the 103d Regt. to sustain that Post. And I have placed the two Flank Companies, of the 104th Regt. completed to 60 each, under Lieut Col. Drummond, for the purpose of acting with the Indians, in that direction also, as circumstances may require.

I fear we shall suffer much difficulty in feeding all this force, Mr. Couche having received a letter from Mr. Turquand this day, expressing his apprehensions of a failure in the article of Flour; which it is totally impossible to assist them in from Kingston, from the want of means of transport from hence. I have even been under the necessity of taking twelve Batteaux from the Brigades which arrived yesterday, to forward the 89th Regt. to York—

I am happy, however to observe, that Maj. Gen. Riall states, there is a sufficiency of provisions, in each of the three Forts, for the supply of their Garrisons until our Fleet can take the Lake again.

Maj. Gen. Riall has heard that the Enemy are collecting a force at Detroit.

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The Marquis of Tweedale's wound is in the leg, and severe; Lieut. Col. Gordon's in the chin, and neck, Capt. Holland's in the Head & through the left hand; Capts. Sleigh & Sherrard in three places each, the former supposed to be mortal.

The General himself was struck on the hip, but without further injury than to tear his coat.

Sir James Yeo has received a letter from a very intelligent officer of the navy captured at Sandy Creek. He states that the Enemy's new ship Superior is very low between decks & carries 32 Pounders, her Ports very close. The new Ship Mohawk is less by a port on each side than the Prince Regent. This officer had a good opportunity of viewing the works of Defence at Sackett's Harbour; which he states to have been considerably strengthened, and so much so as to require at least 7000 men to ensure success against them.

I have the honour to be Sir Your Excellency's most obedient humble Servant Gordon Drummond lt. Genl

His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 684-p 59.]

INDIAN PRESENTS

Recapitulation of Indian Presents &c shipped for the Post of Michilimackinac in the Brigade of Canoes which Left Lachine the 9th of July 1814 in charge of Capt. J. M. La Mothe & Consigned to Lieut Col. McDonall.

70 Pieces Blue Strouds.

100 Pairs Blankets 3 Points

587 “ “ 2½ “

60 “ “ 2 “

50 “ “ 1½ “

50 “ “ 1 “

4000 Gun Flints

40 lbs Vermillion

127 Bundles Sturgeon Twine 254

72 Doz. Fire Steels

24 “ Scalping Knives.

607

12 lb All coloured Thread

24 “ Stitching Thread

6 Pieces common Romal Handkfs.

6 Doz. Coloured Silk “

10 Pieces Blue Molton

200 lb net Thread

35 Laced Hats

10 Hangers

5000 Ear Bobs

60 Pairs Arm Bands

10 Pairs Pistols

10 Feathers

18 Wampum Collars

3640 Common Silver Broaches1

1 A sufficiency of ammunition, 288 scalping knives, and a generous supply of Indian jewelry, ear bobs, arm bands, silver brooches, gorgets and gilt and white metal buttons—very acceptable to warriors and their wives.

50 Silver gorgets

3 Pieces Scarlet Cloth 102¼ yds.

200 Yds 1½ Inch Brocade Lace Yellow

1 Groce Gilt Coat Buttons

1 double groce white Metal do.

2 Pieces Brown Russia Sheeting

15 Doz Black Silk Handkfs.

2 lb Red Thread for making Chiefs Coats

7 Pieces striped 64 Cotton 253¾ yds

120 Chiefs Guns in 12 Cases

1150 lb Carrot Tobacco 12 bales 372 Carrots

1680 lb Ball in 20 Bags

1680 lb Shot in 20 Bags

3 Baskets Tin Kettles 2 nests each

18 Kegs Gun Powder 66# ea

100 Kegs Pork cwt 7824

140 Bags Flour 14000 lbs.

[C 257-p 343.]

Recapitulation of Indian Presents &c &c shipped for the Post of Michilimackinae in the Brigade of Canoes which left Lachine the 10th of Sept. 1814 in charge of Pierre Rocheblave Esqr & consigned to Lt. Col. McDonall

608

10 cases Chiefs Guns 100 guns each case

28 Pairs Blankets 2½ pt

123 Cod Lines

56 Bundles Sturgeon Twine

1000 Cod Hooks

190 lbs net Thread

1000 Gun Flints

40 Bags Ball 84 lb each 3360 lb.

5 Bags Shot 84 “ 420 lb.

24 Kegs Gun Powder 66# ea. 1600 lb.

184 Kegs Pork 76 ea 13984 lb.

135 Bags Flour 100 ea 13500

63 Bags Indian Corn for men to return

19 Kegs Salt

7 Kegs Tallow for men to return

EARL BATHURST TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Downing Street 11 July 1814

No. 71.

Sir ,

The Lords Commrs of the Admiralty having communicated to me a copy of a Letter to Sir James Yeo of the 7th April in which you stated your expectation of receiving a proposition from the American Govt. to conclude an Armistice; and expressing your wish of receiving his sentiments on the expediency of accepting it. They also transmitted a copy of his answer by which it appeared that he was not inclined to think such a measure advantageous to His Majesty's Service.

Although you were by no means bound to consider his opinion conclusive, yet as you, after the receipt, of that answer appeared to have entered into a negociation for an

Armistice, it would have been desirable for you to have accompanied your communication of that Transaction with a copy of this correspondence.

Their Lordships have also transmitted to me a copy of your letter to Sir Alex. Cochrane of the 11th May by which it appears that you proposed as one of the conditions of the Armistice that it should not be put an end to by either party except by the interruption of negociation for Peace which you understood was to take place at Gottenburg.

As you have no instruction or authority to conclude an Armistice with the American Government, I do not imagine that you will have undertaken 609 to sign any, unless it be subject to the approbation of His Majesty's Govt. and you will not therefore have introduced such a condition without expressly reserving to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent the right of breaking the Armistice on a proper notice to be given although the negociation in question should continue.

It is the wish of His Majestys Govt. to press the war with all possible rigor up to the moment when peace shall be finally concluded, a proposition to continue the Armistice during the negociation is very contrary to this system, & would leave it too much at the option of the American Government to protract or terminate the Armistice as it best suited the state of their preparations and the hope they might entertain of countenance & protection from the European Powers.

This objection would be materially encreased if the Armistice was to be considered as extending to our naval operations on the Coasts of the United States.

If however you should have been persuaded to conclude an armistice with any condition inserted in it which does not reserve to H. R. H. the full right of terminating it, whenever he shall think expedient and shall therefore entertain doubts how far you are to obey my Instructions of the 3d June, to terminate it at a period not later than the 15th August, you are hereby instructed on the receipt of this dispatch forthwith to make known to the

American Government that you have received peremptory orders to put an end to the armistice after due notification.

You will explain to the American Govt. that the Armistice which you had signed must have been considered as subject to H. R. H's pleasure as you had received no instructions or authority to conclude any & that as soon as intelligence had been received in this country that one had been in contemplation an Instruction had been forthwith sent to you to terminate it by the 15th August at latest.

I should not have thought it necessary for me to have given you this Instruction, if you had not stated in the Letter referred to, that you considered the negociation between Col. Baynes & Col. Pinkney as only suspended by which I apprehend that you look to its renewal; and it is most desirable that if the armistice has been signed, the American Govt. should have the earliest possible notice of our intention to terminate it.1

1 This was a parliamentary and severe rebuke to Sir George Prevost, commander-in-chief of his Britannic majesty's forces in America.

I have &c. (signed) Bathurst

His Excellency Sir Geo. Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 684-p 76.]

610

MAJOR HEATHCOTE TO SECRETARY FREER

(*Royal Newfoundland Regiment*)

Quebec 15th July 1814

Sir ,

The clothing of the Regiment for the year 1815 having just arrived, and the Head Quarters being under orders for Newfoundland I wish to know His Excellency the Comr. of the Forces pleasure in regard to the Clothing for that part of the Regiment stationed at Michilimakina, as also those men of the Regiment who are still Prisoners of War. A balance remains in the hands of the Paymaster to the Detachment at Michilimakina I shall be glad to know who is to receive it.

I have the honor to be Sir Your obt Servant R. Heathcote Major Comg. Rl. Newf'dland Regt.

Noah Freer Esqr. Mily Secy.

[C 721-p 14.]

LIEUT. COL. McDOUALL TO LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND

(*War—1812*)

Michilimackinac 16th July 1814

Sir ,

I beg leave to acquaint you that on the 21st ulto: I received information of the capture of the Prairie des Chienes1 on the Missisippi by the American Genl Clarke who had advanced from St. Louis with Six or Eight very large boats with about three hundred men for the purpose of establishing himself at that Post by building a Fort, the situation being very eligible for that purpose— As the greater part of my Indian force was from the Countries adjoining La Prairie des Chiens, they felt themselves not a little uneasy at the proximity of the Enemy to their defenceless families, but on the arrival next day of the Susell or téte De Chin, a distinguished chief of the Winebago Nation (who came to supplicate assistance) and on his mentioning the circumstances of its capture, particularly

the deliberate & barbarous murder of seven men of his own nation, the sentiment of indignation & desire of revenge was universal amongst them, all were bent upon returning for the deliverance of their wives and children, and to drive from

1 Prairie du Chien.

611 their country their unprincipled invaders whose apetite for encroachment grows by what it feeds upon & can never be satisfied.

I saw at once the imperious necessity which existed of endeavouring by every means to dislodge the American Genl from his new conquest, & make him relinquish the immense tract of country he had seized upon in consequence & which brought him into the very heart of that occupied by our friendly Indians, There was no alternative, it must either be done or there was an end to our connection with the Indians, for if allowed to settle themselves in place, by dint of threats, bribes, & sowing divisions among them, tribe after tribe would be graned over or subdued, & thus would be destroyed the only barrier which protects the Great trading establishments of the North West & the Hudson's Bay Company. Nothing could then prevent the enemy from gaining the source of the Mississippi, gradually extending themselves by the Red River to Lake Winnipeg from whence the descent of Nelson's River to York Fort would in time be easy. The total subjugation of the Indians on the Mississippi would either lead to their extermination by the enemy or they would be spared on the express condition of assisting them to expel us from Upper Canada. Viewing the subject in this light, I determined to part with the Sioux and Winebago Indians to give them every encouragement & assistance, & even to weaken ourselves here, rather than the enterprise should not succeed.— I appointed Mr. Rolette and Mr. Anderson and Mr. Gregnion1 of Green Bay to be Capts of Volunteers —the two former raised 63 men in two days whom I completed, armed, and clothed, the latter takes with him all the settlers of Green Bay.—I held several councils with the Indians on this important business.—The solemn and impressive eloquence of the téte De Chien, excited a general enthusiasm, & never was more zeal or unanimity shown amongst them, this chief is scarcely inferior to Tecumseth, & I doubt not will act a distinguished

part in the Campaign, he was particularly urgent with me for two favors—the first—one of their Fathers officers to Command the expedition—the second,—one of their Fathers big Guns to strike terror into their Enemy's, the last request had been made repeatedly by most of the Indian Chiefs, and I agreed to let them have the three pounder I brought from York, chiefly from the novelty of the thing among the Indians & the effect it will have in augmenting their numbers. I attached to it a Bombadier of the Royal Artillery,—a sergt, corporal & twelve smart fellows of the Michigan Fencibles. I next appointed Major McKay to command the whole, with the local rank of Lieut-Col., & in thus acceding to both their requests the Chief told me they had not a wish ungratified, that they and their young men would die in defence of their Gun, but as to McKay they had not words to express the feelings of their delight & satisfaction, he

1 Grignon.

612 is certainly well qualified for the task he has undertaken, being determined, yet conciliatory, well acquainted with the language & mode of managing the Indians, & familiar with the place intended to be attacked.

Everything being prepared Lt. Col McKay sailed under a salute from the Garrison on the 28th ulto: taking from this place 75 of the Michigan Fencibles & Canadian Volunteers, and about 136 Indians—he arrived at Green Bay about six days after at which place such was the zeal displayed, that this force was immediately doubled, but as every arrangement had been made previous to his departure for the junction of the Winebagos & the Fallsovine1 Indians at the portage of the Ouisconning2 River, I have scarcely a doubt but that his force at that place will be at least 1500 men, besides being afterwards joined by the Sioux from River st Peters and other tribes. Upon the whole this rapid advance of Genl Clarke's upon the Missisippi, may ultimately prove a luckey circumstance, it has already tended to unite the Indians in the common cause, and tribes who before have cherished an hereditary enmity for nearly centuries have on this occasion forgot their ancient feuds, & vie with each other, who shall be foremost in chastizing the Merciless invaders of their Country. the terrible Cruelties which the enemy in their late operations have been guilty of, has roused

such a spirit of vengence amongst them, that I am apprehensive if they do not effect their escape, neither the Genl or his troops stand much chance of being able to recount the tragic particulars that will ensue.—This Ruffain on taking the Prarie des Chein, Captured eight Indians of the Winebago nation, they Cajoled them at first with affected kindness, set provision before them, and in the act of eating treacherously fell upon them, and murdered seven in cold blood,—the eighth escaped to be the sad historian of their horrible fate;—The téte des Chien has told me this story, unable to support his indignation at their being butchered like so many dogs.—

1 Folles Avoines—the Menominee Indians.

2 Wisconsin river.

An event has happened since of so aggravated a nature, as must awaken in the breast of apathy itself, every latent quality of revenge & shut the Gates of mercy upon these relentless Assassins.—Col McKay writes me that Genl Clarke invited, and by much promises of friendship got hold of four more of the Winebagos, he shut them up in a log house, & afterwards shot them, thro' between the logs.—One of them was the Brother of the Sersell or téte des Chien! Another Victim was the wife of *Le Feuille* , the first Chief of the Sioux, who was with me here,—after a recital of these atrocities it is scarcely necessary to ask, if the Enemy are likely to meet with mercy, but do they deserve it? By the time Coln McKay is near his destination,— *if successful and the thing is practicable* , I have directed him to descend the 613 Mississippi & also to attack the Prairie Fort on the Illinois River.

(Signed) R. McDonall 2d Coln Comg

To Lieut Gen'l Drummond &c &c

[C 685-p 62.]

ABSTRACT

Abstract of clothing, Bedding, Indian Presents and Provisions, shipped for Michilimackinac in the Brigade of Canoes which left Lachine the 9th July 1814 in charge of Capt. I. M. Lamotte and consigned to Lieut. Col: McDonall

Mil: Clo; No 1C 49 Forty nine bales of clothing and necessaries—containing

100 pair of Blankets 2½ points

200 Privates Great Coats

487 Privates waistcoats

600 Flannel waistcoats

600 Linen shirts

600 prs of Mens Leather Shoes

300 Forage Caps

4 sides of upper leather 2 sides of sole leather

2 lb of hemp

1 Bundle Bristles

11 Shoemakers awls

11 Hafts for do

½ lb shoemakers wax

300 pairs of Grey cloth trowsers

12 Bed Cases, Bedding belonging to the Barrack My department

Bedg No 1 c 54 Fifty four Bales of Bedding—containing

216 pairs of Blankets 2½ points

200 Green Rugs

150 pairs of sheets

100 Bed Cases and 12 do Bale 49 Mil Clo. is 112

200 Bolster Cases

Provisions

140 Bags (Russia Sheeting) contg 70 Barls of Flour 100

614

100 Kegs Containing 7,824 lb of Pork 78

Marked I. P 1c 76 Seventy six Packages of Indian Presents, Contg

70 pieces of blue strouds

100 pr of Blankets 3 Points

364 do do 2½ do

60 do do 2 do

50 do do 1½ do

50 do do 1 do

4000 Gun Flints

40 lb of Vermillion

127 Bundles of Sturgeon Twine 2 lb each

72 doz Fire steels

24 do Scalping Knives

12 lb of all Colored Thread

24 lb of stitching thread

6 pieces of Common Romals

6 doz Colored Silk Handkfs

7 pieces of striped cotton 253¾ yds

10 pieces of blue Molton

200 lb of net thread

25 Laced Hats

10 Hangers

5000 Ear bobs

60 prs of Arm bands silver

10 pr of Pistols

10 Feathers

18 Wampum Collars

3640 Common Silver Broaches

50 silver Gorgets

3 pieces Scarlet cloth 102¼ yds

200 yds 1½ inch Yellow Broad Lace

1 Gro: Gilt Coat buttons

1 dble Gro: White Metal Buttons

2 pieces of Brown Russia sheeting

15 doz Black Silk Handfs

2 — red thread for making chiefs coats

300 Cod Hooks

12 Bales Tobacco at 96 lb each

615

N. B. In the foregoing recapitulation there are pairs of blankets 2½ pt 364 pr

In 12 Gun Cases 1 Blanket Each 6 “

For Baling 54 Bales of Bedding 216 “

For Baling Mil: Clothing 49 Bales 100 “

686 pairs

Contents of 193 Bales of Dry Goods Indian Presents including 39 pairs Blankets 2½ yds employed for Baling the clothing for the Troops at Michilimackinac & packing of Guns in Cases

198 pieces of Blue Strouds

5 do Black do

203 pieces

4 half pieces Scarlet cloth 62½ Yds

326 pairs Blankets 3 pts

809 do do 2½ do—

150 do do 2 do

150 do do 1½ do

150 do do 1 do

21 Gro: Scalping Knives

11½ the Gun Flints

20 Gro: Gun Worms

21 —do— Fire steels

8 7-12th Sewing needles

71 lb Sewing thread

22 “ Net thread

7 “ ounce thread

42 “ Sturgeon twine

125 “ Vermillion

11 Gro: Indian Awls

75 pieces Indian Callicoe

600 striped Cotton Shirts

12 Gro: Scarlet, & Scarlet striped Garters

500 Guns (50 Cases)

72 Kegs Gunpowder (48 Barrels)

120 Bags Shot & Ball 84 lb ea:

616

50 Cases Ball from Quebec equal to 66 Bags at Lachine 10 “

76 “

at Lachine Beaver shot 44 “

120

40 Bale Carrot Tobacco

10 Baskets Kettles viz:

4 of tin Kettles 2 nests each

4 copper “ 2 —do—

2 Brass “ 1 —do—

Articles to form the loading of 10 Canoes of Indian presents &c for Michilimackinac

193 Bales Presents

7 Bales Clothing for the Garrison at Michilimackinac

200 Bales Dry Goods

40 Bales Tobacco

50 Cases Guns

72 Kegs Gunpowder

120 Bags shot & Ball

10 Baskets Kettles

11 Cases Iron Works—(suppose not yet received)

2 Cases Caps for the Garrison at Michilimackinac

505 pieces

Additional 2 Canoes of—with stores and

1 with Indian Corn & Provisions

3

10 with presents

13 Canoes

[C 257-p 333.]

LIEUT. COL. MCDOUALL TO LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND WAR—1812

Michilimackinac 17 July 1814

Sir

I beg leave to call your attention to the expediency of taking immediate & effectual steps toward the supplying of this Garrison with Provisions to the end of June next.

617

By the last Canoes to Montreal I have strongly urged the necessity of this being attempted with the least possible delay but unfortunately so much time is necessarily lost by the distance the delay in giving orders, & in acting upon them that I am not a little apprehensive that the opportunity which now exists may be lost, before preparations are matured & steps taken to provide us with the supply before mentioned which will require four hundred barrels of flour and two hundred of Pork, without including the Indian Corn necessary for the Indians, & which I am grieved to say threatens this year to fail us in our neighbourhood altogether, everything in the shape of grain being nearly destroyed for want of rain, should the dry weather continue a few days more, the corn will be burnt up, and a greater misfortune should scarcely befall us,—for this Island cannot be defended without

Indians nor they fed without a large supply of Indian Corn, the little which remains at this Post selling for twelve dollars pr Bushel.—

I was greatly disappointed at the Nancy's bringing us last trip, only eleven Barrels for Govert. I at least expected three hundred—I also received but little comfort on Mr Crooshank telling me, that by the 20th Ins: he was in hopes to have 200 Barrels at the mouth of the Nottawasaga River—however as it is of great consequence even the securing that quantity, I am now dispatching the Nancy for it, I however beg leave to represent the great necessity which exists that the supplies should be more liberal for this place.—It is now the last point of connection with the Indians, & I believe the great importance of their alliance, & the policy of conciliating them as much as possible is generally admitted particularly as the Enemy is making such efforts to seduce them from us, & yet what means are placed in my hands to counteract the influence of the Americans, a continual interchange of Indians is going on at this place, & some have come a great distance for its defence, & yet I have been compelled to refuse rations to their wives and children, & to many others in a half famished state, even my own garrison, I am obliged to reduce the ration of, and as soldiers have but little foresight, & think only of the present, it adds to the general discontent on the subject of Provisions. In what a predicament does this leave me & in what a situation shall I be left, if great efforts are not made for my relief, every day adds to my perplexity on this subject. I now only issue 250 rations daily to Indians, which makes the whole about 550. It is absolutely essential & cannot with prudence be otherwise, that in calculating the supplies for this garrison at least *three hundred Indians* should be included, & I am fully convinced that they never could be expended to a better purpose.

I have paid much attention to Col. Forsters suggestion of offering annoyance to the Enemy during their operations in the River St. Clair—If 78 618 it is meant with a view to dislodge them, and drive them from the river, we have now since the departure of the expedition to the Prarie du Chiens, no force at all adequate to the purpose, all we could Muster being two Companies of the Newfoundland Regt about 100 effective, & not 100 Indians on whom

I could rely, and as to these repeated experience has proved that they are scarcely of any use in attacking a fort.—From the time the Enemy have occupied the River St. Clair, we could never have dislodged them without a co-operation by the River Thames, & they must now be so well established having also a large garrison, that it would require more than double my force to afford the least chance of success; But the principal objection even if a force equal to the attempt, could be mustered would be the danger arising from the vicinity of the smaller vessels of the Enemy's Fleet, an expedition of unprotected Batteaux (for the Nancy could not even protect herself) if fallen in with by them which in going or returning there would be every probability of would end in the Capture of the whole, & the consequent loss of this Island.—

Our latest Indian accounts state that the enemy have ten vessels at Detroit, & that great preparations, were making to attack us which was to take place in August. I am doing my utmost to prepare for their reception, our new works on the Hill overlooking the old Fort are nearly completed & the Blockhouses in the centre will be finished this week which will make this position one of the strongest in Canada, its principal defect is the difficulty of finding water near it, but that obviated & a sufficient supply of Provisions laid in, no force that the Enemy can bring will be able to reduce it.—

I am strongly inclined to believe that the threatened attack is likely to take place in the course of next month, hitherto they have been apprehensive of risking it, perhaps apprehensive of the Niagara Indians advancing upon Sandwich & Detroit in their absence; still their Fleet is strong enough to afford a powerful protection to the latter place, & also admit of a sufficient number to come against Michilimackinac, to which it is probable they will be strongly induced, on hearing of the Expedition against the Prarie du Chiens, thinking that our force here is greatly weakened in consequence, I have sixty of the Fallsovine Indians, who are of the best description I have yet seen & most thoroughly to be depended on.—I depend much upon them in the event of an attack.—

As to what has been suggested of endeavouring to feed the Indians upon the Enemy. I am convinced that such a project is altogether delusive.—It could not be effected at Amherstburg when the Indians were backed by a large regular force—A superior fleet and the Enemy's supplies at hand. 619 We have none of these advantages & no place within our reach where these can be obtained.—I have besides invariably found that the Indians in such executions, as I have sent them upon, instead of effecting a saving, devour three times the usual quantity of Provisions.—

(Signed) R. McDonall

To Lieut. Genl. Drummond

[C 685-p 66.]

FROM LIEUT. COL. MCKAY

(*War—1812*)

Old Fort Prairie Du Chien July 17th 1814.

Sir ,

An hour after the receipt of this Surrender to His Majesty's Forces under my command, unconditionally otherwise I order you to defend yourself to the last man, the Humanity of a British Officer obliges me (in case you should be obstinate) to request you will send out of the way your women and children.

I am Sir Your very Hble. Servt. (Signed) W. McKay 1 Lt. Col. Comg. the Expedition1

1 See appendix.

To the Officer commanding the American Troops &c. Prairie du Chien.

[C 685-p 3.]

FROM CAPTAIN PERKINS

Fort Shelby July 13th2 1814

2 Should read 18th.

Sir ,

I received your polite note and prefer the latter and am determined to defend to the last man

Yours &c Jos. Perkins capt. Comg. United States Troops

[C 685-p 2.]

620

CAPT. PERKINS TO LIEUT. COL. McKAY

(*War—1812*)

Fort Shelby July the 19th 1814.

Sir ,

I am willing to surrender the garrison and troops under my command, provided you will save and protect the officers and men, and prevent the Indians from ill treating them.1

1 See appendix.

I am respectfully Your obt. Hum. Servt Joseph Perkins Capt. Comd. U. S. Troops

Col William McCary (McKay) Commanding the Expedition

[C 685-p 5.]

LIEUT. COL. McKAY TO CAPT. PERKINS

(*War—1812*)

Old Fort Prairie Du Chein July 19th 1814

Sir ,

I will thank you to prolong the hour to march out of your Fort till eight O'clock to-morrow morning when you shall march out with the Honors of our Parade before the Fort deliver up your arms & put yourself under the protection of the Troops under my command—

I am Sir Your obedt. Humble Servt (Signed) W. McKay Lt. Col. Comg. Expedition

Capt. Joseph Perkins Commanding Fort Shelby

[C 685-p 4.]

621

REPORT

Morning Report of a detachment of Rangers on command—Prairie du Chien—under command of Maj. J. Campbell 1

1 See fragment of report ascribed to him on next page, 622: his whole command is supposed to have been cut off and killed by Indians in the Rock river country, en route to the Mississippi.

Present Camp Hard Water No. 15, July 19th 1814 For duty Per Music on board C & S boats Sick Lieutenants Serjeants Corporals Musicians Privates Privates Privates.

Lieutenants Serjeants Corporals Privates Total Aggregate Lt. Weaver Detach, Infantry 1 2 2 2 1 8 8 41 42 Lt. Rectors ditto Rangers 1 1 24 1 6 32 33 Lt. Riggs ditto ditto 1 1 1 24 6 32 33 2 4 2 2 08 1 8 1 20 105 108

[C 685-p 17.]

ORDER FOR RETALIATION

(*North West*)

No. 1

By the Honorable Alexander Cochrane K. B. &c &c &c

Whereas by Letters from His Excellency Lt. Gen'l Sir George Prevost of the 1st & 2nd of June last, it appears that the American Troops in Upper Canada have committed the most wanton & unjustifiable outrages on the unoffending Inhabitants by burning their Mills and Houses & by a general devastation of private Property. And whereas His Excellency has requested that in order to deter the Enemy from a repetition of similar outrages I should assist in inflicting measures of retaliation.

You are hereby required & directed to destroy & lay waste such towns & Districts upon the Coast as you may find assailable, You will hold strictly in view the conduct of the American army towards His Majesty's unoffending Canadian Subjects and you will spare merely the lives of the unarmed American Inhabitants of the United States. For only by carrying this retaliation into the Country of our Enemy can we hope to make him sensible of the impolicy as well as the inhumanity of the system he has adopted.

You will take every opportunity of explaining to the people how much I lament the necessity of following the rigorous example of the American Forces.

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And as these Commanders must obviously have acted under instructions from the Executive Govt of the United States, whose intimate & unnatural connections with the late Govt. of France had led them to a system of Plunder & Devastation. It is therefore to their own Govt. the unfortunate sufferers must look for indemnification for the loss of their property.

And this order is to remain in force until I receive information from Sir George Prevost that the Executive Govt of the United States have come under an obligation to make full remuneration to the injured & unoffending Inhabitants of the Canadas for all the outrages their Troops have Committed.

Given under my hand at Bermuda 18th July 1814.

(Signed) Alex. Cochrane 1

1 See appendix.

[C 684-p 204.]

UNADDRESSED AND WITHOUT SIGNATURE

(*War—1812*)

Mouth of Rock River July 20th 1814

Sir ,

I arrived here about ten o'clock yesterday and was met by the Indians bearing a Flag, several of them spoke but had little to say of importance, they appear friendly and well disposed. Nothing of importance has happened since I last wrote to you & shall set out in a few moments and lose no time till I arrive at my place of destination which will be in seven

or eight days. Two Indians leave this place as express to Prairie du Chien. The Indians by which this letter will be handed you are Sacks and sent by the request of Governor Clark.

The Troops are considerably unhealthy and am in bad health myself.

(Supposed to be written by Major Campbell commanding the reinforcements on their way to Fort Shelby, now Fort Mackay & where he was to command—he was next day attacked, by the above “friendly and well-disposed” Indians & his whole detachment to a man cut off & himself killed, the Indians brot in his passes & commission.)

[C 685-p 6.]

623

COL. MCKAY TO COL. McDOUALL

(*War—1812*)

Prairie Du Chien Fort Mckay July 27th 1814—

*Lt. Col. R. McDonall, Commanding Michilimackinac and its Dependencies &c. &c. * *

* Crossed in original—One star indicates where the crossing commences, and two stars, thus * *, where it closes.

Sir,

I have the honor to communicate to you that I arrived here the 17th inst at 12 o'clock, my force amounting to 650 men of which 120 were Michigan Fencibles, Canadian Volunteers & Officers of the Indian department the remainder indians who proved to be perfectly useless—I found that the Enemy had a small fort situated on a height immediately behind the Village with two Block Houses perfectly safe from Indians and that they had six pieces cannon and Sixty or Seventy effective men, officers included—That lying at anchor in the

middle of the Mississippi immediately in front of the Fort was a very large Gun Boat, called “Governor Clark, Gun Boat No. 1.” She mounts 14 pieces Cannon some six, three and a number of Cohorns manned with 70 or 80 men with musquets and measures 70 feet keel, this floating Block House is so constructed that she can be rowed in any direction the men on board being perfectly safe from small arms while they can use their own to the greatest advantage, she goes remarkably fast particularly down the current being rowed by 32 Oars —

At half past 12 o'clock I sent Capt. Anderson with a Flag of Truce to invite them to surrender which they refused, my intention was not to have made an attack till next morning at day light, but it being impossible to control the Indians I ordered our Gun to play upon the Gun Boat which she did with a surprizing good effect for in the course of three hours the time the action lasted she fired 86 rounds, two thirds of which went into “Governor Clarke,” they kept up a constant fire on us both from the Boat and Fort, we were about an hour between two fires having run our Gun up within musquet shott of the Fort, whom hence we beat the Boat out of her station she cut her cable and run down the Current and sheltered under an Island—We were obliged to desist it being impossible with our little Barges to attempt to board her and our only Gun in pursuit of her would have exposed our whole camp to the Enemy she therefore made her escape.

*I immediately sent off a canoe with three men, an Ioway that came from McKinac1 with me & two of six Sauks that joined me in the fox river. I gave them four Kegs Gun Powder and ordered them to pass the Gun Boat and

1 Michilimackinac.

624 get as soon as possible to the Rapids at the Rock River, where it is generally believed the Gun Boat will run aground, and have all the Sauks assembled to annoy the men and prevent their disembarking to get firewood &c. The next morning I dispatched two boats under Capt. Grignon with an officer and twenty six men to go in pursuit of her and observe her motions. They fell in with her the day after leaving this but having only small arms

could do her no injury—Capt Grignon summoned her to surrender to no purpose, he however followed her up till within a league of the Rapids, when they met another of the Enemy's Gun Boats, tho' smaller arranged in the same manner as the “Governor Clark,” the wind favouring her she made after our Boats but could not overtake them, she in a short time threw her anchor & Capt. Grignon very improperly made the best of his way here since when I I have had no news from there, notwithstanding I have dispatched canoes almost daily ever since.**

On the nineteenth finding there were only six rounds round shott remaining including three of the Enemys we had picked up, the day was employed making lead Bullets for the Gun and throwing up two Breastworks one within 700 yards and the other within 450 yards of the Fort, at six in the evening everything being prepared I marched to the first breastwork, from whence I intended to throw in the six remaining rounds, iron ball, red hot into the Fort in order to set it on fire, the only apparent resource, at the moment the first Ball was about being put into the Cannon, a white flag was put out at the Fort and immediately an officer came down with a note and surrendered. It being now too late I deferred making them deliver up their arms in form till next morning but immediately placed a strong guard in the Fort and took possession of the artillery. From the time of our landing till they surrendered the Indians kept up a constant but perfectly useless fire upon the Fort, the distances from where they fired was too great to do execution even had the Enemy been exposed to view.

I am happy to inform that notwithstanding every man in the Michigan Fencibles, Canadian Volunteers and officers in the indian department behaved as well as I could possibly wish tho' in the midst of a hot fire not a man was even wounded except three Indians that is one Puant, one Follesavoine and one Scioux all severely but not dangerously.* I beg you will excuse my not having it in my power to give you a full account of the things taken in the Fort, for a man having to do with Indians in my present situation is more tormented1 than if in the infernal regions.** One Lieut

* Crossed in original.—One star indicates where the crossing commences, and two stars, thus * *, where it closes.

1 Unable it seems to prevent plundering, but could and did restain them from massacre—making in this particular a shining and exceptional example. Well done, McKay.

625 U. S. Regt, 1 Militia Capt, 1 Militia Lieut, 3 Serjeants, 3 Corporals, 2 Musicians, 53 Privates, 1 Commissary, 1 Interpreter have been made prisoners 1 Iron Six Pounder mounted on Garrison Carriage 1 Iron Three Pounder on Field Carriage, 3 Swivels, 61 Stands Arms, 4 Swords, 1 Field Carriage for Six Pounder and a goodeal of ammunition, 28 Barrels Pork and 46 Barrels Flour, these are the principal articles found in the Fort when surrendered.

I will now take the liberty to request your particular attention to Captus. Rolette & Anderson the former for his activity in many instances but particularly during the action, the action having commenced unexpectedly he run down from the upper end of the village with his Compy. thro' the heat of the fire, to receive orders & before & since in being instrumental in preserving the citizens being quite ruined by pillaging Indians, and the latter for his unwearied attention in keeping everything in order during the rout and his activity in following up the cannon during the action and assisting in transporting the ammunition. Lieut. Porlier1 of Capt. Anderson's Compy. Lieuts Graham & Brisbois of the Indian Department, Capt. Dease of the Prairie du Chien Militia & Lieut Powell of the Green Bay, all acted with that courage and activity so becoming Canadian Militia or Volunteers, the interpreters also behaved well but particularly Mr. St. Germain from the Sault Ste Marie and Mr. Rainville, Sioux interpreter, they absolutely prevented their Indians committing any outrages in the plundering way. Commissary Honoir who acted Lieut in Capt. Rolette's Compy, whose singular activity in saving and keeping an exact account of provisions surprised me and without which we must unavoidably have lost much of that essential article. The Michigan Fencibles who manned the Gun behaved with great courage, coolness and regularity. As to the Serjt of Artillery too much cannot be said for him for the

fate of the day and our successes are to be attributed in a great measure to his courage and well managed firing.

1 See appendix.

*I am sorry to be under the necessity of reproaching some of the Indians but Puants particularly for shameful depredations committed during the action on the 17th and since. Many of them (Puants) in place of meeting the enemy, immediately on their arrival run off to the farms killed the Inhabitants and Cattle and pillaged their Houses even to the covering off their Beds & leaving many without a second shirt to put on their backs. Even in the village they did the same outrages, breaking to pieces what they could not carry away, this prevented the Militia joining me absolutely required to keep guard over their Houses.

* Crossed in original.—One star indicates where the crossing commences, and two stars, thus * * where it closes.

626

The Sioux, Soteaux, Courte Orielles and Part of the Follesavoines1 tho' perfectly useless obeyed my orders pretty well, but the Puants behaved in a most villainous manner, and was I permitted to decide their fate they should never receive a shilling's worth of presents from Government on the contrary I would cut them off to a man, they despise the idea of receiving orders from an officer that does not hold a Blanket in one hand & a piece of Pork in the other to pay them to listen to what he may have to say. Audaciously saying they are under no obligations to us but they have themselves preserved the Country. The moment they have finished pillaging and got their share of the prize they marched off except about ten men who are this instant in the act of cutting up the green wheat which if they do not desist I shall be compelled to confine them to the fort not only for the good of the citizens but for our own safety as provisions will be very scarce till after Harvest.**

1 See appendix.

Since the surrender of the Fort and the departure of the Puants the Inhabitants have all come forward and taken the oath of allegiance and are now doing duty on patrole or otherwise as required.

*As to going down the Mississippi and returning by way of Chicago as was originally intended is now rendered impracticable for the present—No dependence whatever to be placed in the indians except the Sioux the others having abandoned me immediately on the receipt of their share of the prize, my trifling force of battalions cannot warrant anything Honorable** by making that tour.

* Crossed in original.—One star indicates where the crossing commences, and two stars, thus * *, where it closes.

I beg leave to remark that in case the intention is to retain this place a reinforcement of Fifty regular Troops would be necessary a quantity of ammunition for the Guns & Pork for their provisions—Flour can be procured here in a month and a half from this**

My reason for making this* remark is that my decided opinion is that from this to the fall an attack** may undoubtedly be looked for from below and if four or five of these floating Block Houses come* up armed as Governor Clark was our present force is certainly not equal to prevent these repulsing us unless more particularly favoured by providence than before**

As soon as I can get certain information of the Enemies situation & if I find they are fortifying themselves any where from* this to Fort Madison I will go down & try & dislodge them, But if I am well convinced there is no danger by leaving this, I will as soon as such news may be ascertained return to McKinac But not otherwise.

It was with much difficulty I preserved the prisoners from the Puants, but 627 having made use of supplications then threats &c till at length they became less violent and at last by keeping a strong guard over them, the Indians went off doing them no injury.**

My intention was to have kept the prisoners here till I got certain information from* below & if the Enemy came here and fired a single shott to have sacrificed them to the Indians. But I am sorry that circumstances oblige me absolutely to send them to St. Louis—by keeping them here any longer would cut me short of provisions, and as to sending them to McKinac, a sufficient force to guard them would leave me quite destitute of resources in case of an attempt from below the Enemy to recover the Post—I have therefore determined to send them off tomorrow morning & let them take their risk under a small guard.**

* Crossed in original.—One star indicates where the crossing commences, and two stars, thus**, where it closes.

The Enemy had three men wounded in the Fort two severely but not dangerously, &* the other slightly** and report says five men were killed and 10 wounded in the Gun Boat but I should have expected more from the* more surely must have been killed and wounded from the great** number of men on board and the number of shotts that went into her.* I take the liberty to refer you to Robert Dickson Esqr. for his opinion respecting my Information of the Puants.

Report says that about 400 Cavalry are about this time to leave St Louis for here, if so they will give us our hands full.

I send this by* Indians express to the Green Bay from whence I have directed Mr. Porlier to send off a canoe to McKinac. I adopt this method being the shortest rout, from here by land the Indians will reach the Bay in four days & four from that to McKinac, which is the shortest passage that can possibly be expected.**

My force here at present amounts to about 300 that is 200 Michigan Volunteers & Militia, & 100 Sioux Sauteux Court Oreilles & Puants

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient humble Servant Wm. McKay Lt. Col. comg.

[C 685-p. 7.]

Supplement

A few Sauks have arrived from the Rapids at the Rock River with two Canadians & bring the following information. On the 21st instant six American Barges three of which were armed were coming up & camped in 628 the Rapids* that night**; that in the course of the night the party of Indians having the four Kegs gun Powder I sent from this on the 17th reached them. The Barges being camped at short distances from each other they on the 22d early in the morning attacked the lower, they killed about one hundred persons took five pieces Cannon burnt the Barge and the other Barges seeing this Disaster and knowing there were British Troops here run off. This is perhaps one of the most brilliant actions fought, by indians only since the commencement of the war. I think now there is little danger here for the present, but I have not the smallest doubt but an attempt will be made either this fall or early in the Spring. I will send off tomorrow for the cannon the size cannot be properly ascertained but from the description the indians give they are 2-3 Pounders & 3 Morters. The Sauks, Renards & Kickapous were engaged in this action, they lost two men & one woman killed—to* give an idea how desperate the indians were, the women, even, jumping on board with their Hoes &c, some breaking heads & others breaking Casks, some trying to cut holes in her bottom to sink her, and others setting fire to her decks.** As one of the Barges was making from* Shore the Ioway that came from McKinac with me jumped on her deck & with his Hatchet cut a hole & fired his gun among the Americans in the Boat—then plunged into the River & made** his escape ashore.

* Crossed in original.—One star indicates where the crossing commences, and two stars, thus * *, where it closes.

[Note.—From the numerous crossings on the manuscript it is inferred that probably the foregoing was the original draft instead of the completed document finally forwarded to headquarters. Ed.]

Those indians came here for a supply of ammunition. I send them off to-morrow morning with ten Kegs Gun Powder and a few presents of goods &c.

It is very fortunate that I received your reinforcement of Gun Powder at the Bay, the demand for that article has been very great, as also for tobacco but both are nearly out now. I shall now go to work & have the fort &c put in as good repair as circumstances will admit.

I was taken very ill last evening with a swelling on the right side of the Head, and has kept me in a violent fever since. I believe it is what is generally called in Canada *the Mumps* .

I have the honor to be Your very obedient & Humble Servant Wm. McKay Lt. Col. comg.

Fort McKay 29th July 1814 Lt. Col. McDonall.

[C 685-p 15.]

629

LIEUT. COL. McDOUALL TO LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND

(*War—1812*)

Michilimackinac 28th July 1814

My Dear General

Being greatly pressed for time, I am obliged to refer you to what I have written to His Excellency relating to the arrival of the American expedition destined for the attack of this place, on perusing the same you will have the goodness to seal and forward the dispatch, which I send from this per Mr. Robinson of York, who carries with him a prisoner we took a few days ago.—On reexamining him a few minutes ago he perseveres steadily in his accounts of the extreme weakness of the enemy on the Detroit Frontier, & their alarm for the Indians in that quarter. I am in great hopes that the arrival of the reinforcements from England will enable you to make a diversion on the River Thames, with part of the Indians supported by a body of light troops—this enterprise would be greatly facilitated by the absence of almost all the Fleet they have equipped on Lake Erie; I am Convinced it would spread dismay thro' the whole country, & very probable have the effect of driving them to their own side of the water & enable your ditachment to seize upon the Fort at the Head of the River St. Clair, which is represented as not finished & with little or no garrison. Even an attempt at these operations with as many troops as can be spared would I have reason to believe, have the effect of relieving us from a most wearysome blockade, which will probably reduce us to the last extremity for the want of provisions if we do not succeed in getting supplied, by boats and canoes in the manner stated in the plan herewith enclosed, which if not acted up to, with the utmost promptitude & vigor, there is no prospect for us but famine & starvation.1

1 Still on a short supply, boats from Montreal backward as usual, danger from American vessels intercepting them imminent.

We are here in a very fine state of Defence the Garrison & Indians in the highest spirits, and all ready for the attack of the Enemy. I apprehend nothing for the Island but from the want of Provisions— I have therefore to beg to suplicate, to entreat, my dear General, that every possible effort may be made—every step be immediately taken, which can facilitate our being supplied. There are now three Batteaux in the Nottawasaga River, a fourth can be carried over from Lake Simcoe, these should be manned by the crew of

the Nancy, mounting one of her canonades in one of them, & could bring 140 Barrels of Flour which should be taken to the depot at the River Sauganock, & being there secured, the party have sufficient time, to return a second cargo to the River Tessalon, which we consider (the secret being well kept) as out of the reach of the Enemy & which (should the blockade not be raised in time) can easily be brought here over the snow in 630 the winter. The River Sauganock is fifteen miles on *our side* of the cloche, & is the place where the Montreal canoes are directed to deposit the cargoes they brought from that place, & likewise *the first Cargo of Flour* they bring from the River Nottawasaga. The River Tessalon is thirty miles from St. Joseph & is the place where *the Second Cargoes of both the Canoes and the Batteaux must be landed* , as by that time the Enemy's Squadron may have been obliged to leave us, but be that as it may, we consider it a safe place,—Should the Nancy's crew come with the Batteaux, as proposed, she must be hauled as high as possible up the River—A subaltern and 20 men and some Indians, stationed for her defence & that of the Depot which I think will perfectly secure both.

A favorable opportunity just occurring for Mr. Robinson's passing the Enemy's Fleet, I am obliged to conclude & to subscribe myself Dear Genl.

(Sigd) R. McDonall

To Lt. General Drummond &. &. &.

You can without much difficulty communicate with this Post, by transmitting the dispatch to Peter Robinson Esqr. at M. Bemens, Young St. who will forward the same.

[C 685-p 70.]

COL. MCKAY TO COL. MCDONALL

(*War—1812*)

Fort McKkay August 1st 1814.

Lt. Col. R. McDonall Commanding Michilimackinac and its dependencies &c. &c.

Sir ,

Captain Rolette's business calling him to Michilimackinac and as everything is pretty well settled here I allow him to go, a part of the volunteers from the Bay such as heads of families, and all those that have harvest to gather in I also give them their liberty—they have behaved well. The Sauks, Renards, Kickapoos and part of the Sioux have left this yesterday. The little Corbean has gone to distribute the presents they got at McKinac to his nation. The Feuille1 remains here with a few men as a guard. The Little Corbean will remain at his own village in readiness at a moments' warning if wanted here—But intends coming with his whole band to winter a short distance above this.

1 LeFeuille, first chief of the Sioux; also same who appealed to Capt. Roberts for assistance for Prairie du Chien; pp. 244–5. Sometimes called Sussell.

I am now putting in order the Fort &c here & will have everything in as good a state of defence as circumstance will admit in a short time. As soon as the Gun Boat, that I have sent to the Rock River for the guns the Indians had taken returns and if everything at that time wears a favorable aspect I will leave this for McKinac, and make the best of my—in for I certainly could not live six months in this very warm climate. I think the sooner a reinforcement is sent out the better. Powder is particularly requisite there remaining none but what is for the garrison. Exclusive of the Sioux presents I have sent below among the Sauks Renards & Kickapoos 20 Kegs Gun Powder & 14 Bales goods. The Puants did not use one ounce of the Powder they got at McKinac for the use of this Expedition. On the contrary they left their guns and Ammunition on their own lands—so that I have been obliged to furnish them, ever since they have been with us.

Enclosed you will receive sundry of the Enemies' papers taken by the indians &c amongst which is an Illinois newspaper of the 18th Ultimo. giving a short detail of their expedition up here, and that most gallant action of having stormed & taken two old trunks belonging to R. Dickson Esq. a grand prize for Governor Clark, the two trunks containing old Merchantile letters & accounts since the year 1786. This will be a good acquisition to the Governor who I presume will have them exposed for sale in his store for the purpose of pasting windows.1 My forces here at present are about 120 consisting of Michigans Volunteers & Militia there is also about 50 idle Indians about the village. I send in by Capt. Rolette two British deserters found here in the American service and two bad subjects who were very busy when the Americans arrived here in wishing to depreciate the British Character, One of the name of Pinard, was most particularly active in this abuse. Captain Rolette begs me to request you will give him his discharge as it is not convenient for him to remain in the service. Capt. Anderson on the contrary wishes to remain during the war. I send herewith the names of those prisoners sent to St. Louis. The American Troops that were stationed here are of the 7th U. S. regiment.

1 Sarcastic McKay; however these papers of Dickson, so active in stirring up the western Indians, may contain useful information to Gov. Clark.

I have the honor to be Sir Your obedient Humble Servant W. Mckay Lt. Col. Comg.

[C 685-p 18.]

632

INVOICE

Nottawasaga 2d August 1814

Invoice of Provisions forwarded to Deputy Assistant Commissary General Crookshank, for the Post of Michilimackinac, on board His Majestys Schooner Nancy, addressed to Deputy Assistant Commissary General Monk

Barrels Flour—196lb each, one hundred & fifty seven

“ Pork 208lb “ Seventy five

Ditto— Ditto- 200lb “ Sixty eight

Ditto— Salt 280lb “ Six

I acknowledge to have received the above

Miller Worsley Lt Comg

(a true Copy)

(signed) Geo: Crookshank D. A. C. Genl,

[C 685-p 140.]

INVOICE

Nottawasaga 2nd August 1814

Invoice of Stores forwarded by Deputy Assist: Commissary General Crookshank, to the Post of Michilimackinac, on Board His Majestys Schooner Nancy—addressed to Deputy Assistant Commy General Monk .

Shoes—Cases three, each 70 pairs Two hundred & ten

Stocks & Clasps Two hundred

Upper Leather, sides 24 Twenty four

Sole Leather do 16 Two hundred & forty three lbs

Candles—Boxes 7. 50 lbs each Three hundred & fifty lbs

I acknowledge to have received the above

(sgned) Miller Worsley Lt Commg.1

1 Much needed supplies for McDouall, Nottawasaga being on Lake Huron, south end of Georgian bay.

a true Copy

(sgd) Geo: Crookshank

D. A. CG.

[C. 685-p 141.]

633

BOND

(*Aliens*)

Know all men by these presents that we Michael Dousman of the Island of Michilimackinac formerly in that part of the United States called the Michigan territory—Francis Desrivieres and Blackwood both of Montreal in the province of Lower Canada Merchants are held and firmly bound to Our Sovereign Lord the King in the several sums of money following that is to say I the said Michael Dousman as principal obliger in the sum of four—thousand pounds current money of the said province and we the said Francis Desrivieres and Blackwood as sureties jointly & severally in the sum of two thousand pounds current

money aforesaid to be paid to our said Sovereign Lord the King his heirs and successors for which payment to be well and truly made we bind ourselves and every of us by himself Our and every of our heirs Executors curators administrators & Legal representatives firmly by these presents, We the said Francis Desrivieres and Blackwood, hereby renouncing to the right of division and discussion and to all other the rights of sureties whatsoever Signed with our hands and sealed with our seals dated the second day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fourteen.

Whereas the said Michael Dousman is a citizen of the United States aforesaid, and has been permitted to remain in the said island of Michilimackinac since the capture thereof by his Majestys Arms, for the purpose of transacting his business there, and whereas the said Michael Dousman, hath received permission from his Excellency the Governor in Chief of the said province of Lower Canada to reside in or near to the city of Montreal in the said province, and whereas the affairs of the said Michael Dousman require, before he shall take up his residence at Montreal aforesaid, that he should return to the said island of Michilimackinac for a short time not exceeding the period hereinafter mentioned for which he hath also received permission from his excellency the Governor in Chief.

Now the condition of this obligation is such that if the said Michael Dousman shall and do go directly to said island of Michilimackinac without having gone into any part of the said United States, and having remained at the said island a period not exceeding One Month (unless the said period shall be extended by Colonel Robert McDonall or the officer commanding his Majestys troops there) shall and do return directly to Montreal aforesaid in the said Province of Lower Canada, and on his arrival report himself to his excellency the Governor in Chief, and shall not have gone into any part of the United States on his return to Montreal aforesaid, Then this 80 634 obligation shall be void otherwise shall be and remain in full force and virtue.

Signed sealed & delivered in presence of— Michael Dousman

Francis Desrivieres

Tho Blackwood

the word “formerly” having been put interlined between the second & third lines of the first page, and the words “jointly and severally,” having been put interlined between fourteenth & fifteenth lines of the front page.

Alex Hart.

[C 14-p 185.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Camp Near Fort Erie August 11th 1814

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith a letter addressed to Your Excellency, from Lieutenant Colonel McDonall, at Michilimackinac, together with three letters to me, (from that officer) which, being in original, I request the favor of Your Excellency to return to me, after perusal.—

I am much gratified at the Confidence, and Zeal, which appears to prevade every rank under Lieutenant Colonel McDonall's orders.—His own exertions I have no doubt have been unremitting.—

Instantly on receipt of these letters, I directed a communication to be made to the officer commanding at York, covering extracts of the most important parts of them, with instructions that the commissiariat should be called upon to carry into effect the request

of Lieutenant Colonel McDonall, as far as relates to that Department, in the transport of the Provisions, &c, and that a Detachment of Militia, and Indians, should be sent to Nottawasaga for the protection of the Nancy schooner,—I have directed an account of the outrages committed by the Enemy against the unsuspecting Winebagoes at Prairie des Chiens, to be communicated to all the Indians here, in Council this day.—I trust it will have the desired effect of creating in them a 635 spirit of enterprize, and of renewing that ardour which appears in many to be at present nearly extinct.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellency's most obedt humble servant Gordon Drummond Lt. Genl.

His Excellency Sir Geo. Prevost Bart &c &c

[C 685-p 73.]

ACCOUNT

(*Royal Newfoundland Regiment*)

Account of Articles lost by Asst Surgeon Sampson, before the Enemy on the 14th August 1814—

£ S. D. Medical Books 20 0 0 Surgical Instruments 10 “ “ Groceries 24 10 “ Liquors 27 “ “ Total £81 10 “

I do certify upon honor that exclusive of my personal Baggage, I lost the Articles named in the above account, by the destruction of the Nancy Schooner,1 on the 14th of August 1814, when proceeding to Michilimackinac—

1 See appendix.

F. Sampson Asst. Surgeon Rl Newfd Regt.

R. Morkler Captn R. Newf'd Regt Comg. District

Believed to be a Just Acct. & strongly recommended to be paid

Rt McDonall Lt. Col Commanding

[C 721-p 16.]

636

EARL BATHURST TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

Downing Street 21st Augt 1814.

Sir

The perseverance and exertions of the Detachment under Lieut: Col McDonall under the difficulties they had to encounter in reaching Michilimackinac are entitled to every commendation.

I have &c (Sgd) Bathurst

To Lieut General Sir George Prevost Bt &c. &c. &c.

[C 685-p 113.]

MR. CROOKSHANK TO MR. TURQUAND

(*War—1812*)

York 21st August 1814

Sir

I have the honor to report that I have just returned from Nottawasaga, on my arrival there I learned from Lieut: Worsley Royal Navy that the Enemies fleet had appeared off the mouth of Nottawasaga river on the 13th Inst. and on the 14th that they landed a large party of men, in consequence of which I regret to say that he had to destroy the Nancy with all the cargo to prevent the same from falling into the Enemies hands, a copy of the Invoice and receipts for the same I herewith enclose, there was also 50 bags of flour private property on board which I had directed Mr. Livingston to load a Canoe with and proceed and that I would replace the same, but the Enemy had appeared there before Mr. Livingston had reached that place, one of the largest size Gun boats which had been brought down from Mackinac for the purpose of loading the vessel fell into the hands of the Enemy. I have also enclosed a return of the quantity of provisions remaining at the store house at Nottawasaga part of which Lieut Worsley takes on with him in two boats and a large Canoe with Mr. Livingston, as Mr. Worsley, had hands for manning another boat, I directed one to be sent across from Lake Simcoe to him, and I think it probable that they have left Nottawasaga to day in case the boat sent across the Carrying place should not have got injured in the Transport in that case Lieut Worsley would proceed with the two boats and 637 canoe, as it is doubtful whether Mr La Moth who has charge of the Government Canoes will return for provisions, I shall immediately send out three batteaux and endeavour to get hands for manning the same, that they may make two trips with flour to the place pointed out by Colonel McDonall, and shall send out sufficient to make up the 600 barrels required for that Post.

All the Public letters that were forwarded in charge of Lieut Worsley for Lieut Col. McDonall I learn were burnt in the vessel, which I have to request you will please inform Col. Foster, as some of the Packets that were delivered to Lieut: Worsley were from General Drummond.

I have the honor &c (Signed) George Crookshank D. A. C. G.

P. S.—The Enemies fleet left Nottawasaga river on the 16th Inst: and stood up the lake

G. C.

Dy Comg Genl Turquand &c &c &c

[C 685-p 145.]

RETURN

Return Of Provisions at the Store House at Nottawasaga, and loaded on Board two Batteaux and on Canoe for Mackinac.1

1 Another effort to supply McDouall at Mackinac, the previous shipment having been destroyed when the Nancy was burned, Aug. 14, 1814.

Remainder in Store Flour Barrels Twenty two Pork ditto Thirty four Loaded in two Batteaux & one Canoe Flour Ditto Sixty seven Pork Ditto Three Remained at the Landing Lake Simcoe Flour Barrels Fifty Ditto Bags of 100lb One hundred & fifty five

The Flour loaded in the Canoe was packed in Bags

York 21 August 1814

(sgned) George Crookshank (D. A. C. G)

638

FROM LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND—UNADDRESSED

(*War—1812*)

Camp Before Fort Erie August 24th 1814

Sir

Herewith I have the honor to transmit, for the information of the Commander of the Forces, a distressing account of the only remaining vessel, of any burden in our possession on Lake Huron, having been destroyed, with her Cargo of provisions and stores for Michilimackinac at Nottawasaga.—

It would appear, that Lieut Worsley of the Royal Navy, who was on his way to relieve Lieutenant Poyntz, and who had charge of the Nancy, schooner, was under the necessity of so doing, to prevent her falling into the Enemy's hands, they having shewn themselves with a Force off the mouth of that River.— Lieutenant Worsley had one seaman killed and one severely wounded.— But the further particulars I have not been able as yet made acquainted with.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient humble Servant Gordon Drummond Lt. General

P. S. Since writing the foregoing, a letter of which the enclosed is a copy has been handed to me, by Dep: Commissary Genl. Turquand, from D. Asst: Comy. Genl. Crookshank to him, under date of the 21st Instant. I presume the senior officer of the Commissariat Department in this Province, has duly appreciated the conduct of Mr. Crookshank; and has not failed to report the same, in the most favorable point of view, to the Commander of the Forces, particularly for his indifatigable, & unremitting exertions, in procuring, and forwarding, to the Post of Michilimackinac, every article of the various stores, and provisions, required of him; and through a communication, which by his personal observation and perseverance, was completed; when scarcely imagined even to have been commenced upon.

I feel much pleasure, therefore, in drawing to the notice of His Excellency the name of an officer so highly deserving of commendation.

G. D.

[C 685-p 138.]

639

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Camp Before Fort Erie August 31st 1814

Sir

I have the honor to enclose herewith two dispatches from Lieut: Colonel McKay, of the Canadian Militia, to Lieutenant Colonel Macdonall, Commanding at Michilimackinac, detailing the operations of the Force, under his orders, against the Enemy's position at La Prarie des Chiens.—

The Conduct of Lieut Coln McKay, and the Troops, accompanying him, appears to be most highly deserving of commendation.

The Despatches I transmit to Your Excellency at the request of Lieutenant Colonel Macdonall.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellency's most obedient humble Servant Gordon Drummond Lt. Genl.

His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[C 685-p 161.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SECRETARY FREER

(*War—1812*)

Camp Before Fort Erie September 5th 1814

Sir

I have the honor to acquaint you, for the information of His Excellency, the Commander of the Forces, that on the 30th ultimo a Marauding Party of the Enemy, Consisting of about 70, came to Oxford, and made Prisoners of Captains Curtis, Hall, and Carroll, & Serjeant Dowland, of the Militia,—They have likewise taken, and paroled the greater part of the inhabitants from Delaware to Oxford.—

They also made prisoners of Mr. Bonnell, and Mr. Palmer; who were, at that time, purchasing Cattle for Government; which, to the value of 270 Dollars, and 600 Dollars in Cash, they also made prize of,—

On Mr. Burdock's house being attacked, he fired on the Enemy; and wounded one of the Enemy,—Mr. Burdock, however, I am concerned to say, was wounded in return,—

The Traitor Westbrook accompanied this gang.1 On the 1st of September the Enemy was attacked by a party of Militia under Lieutenant Rapaljé, who lay in Ambush for them near Delaware.—The Enemy did not return his fire; but fled with precipitation towards Oxford, having their Commander mortally, and several others, wounded on the road. Westbrook being in the rear conducted them safe off through the Woods.—Captains Curtis & Hall, by this circumstance, found means to effect their escape from the Enemy, who left the greater part of their plunder, several horses, all their Cattle and some arms.

1 The Michigan Rangers probably, and clear-headed, indefatigable Westbrook, naturally enough, in the lead.

Several strangers have appeared, lately in the neighbourhood of Dover; one, armed, was fired at, some nights since, by a sentry, but the villain escaped into the bush,—one

Dickson and Simon Mabee, a fellow who made his escape from justice last year, entered the house of a person, named John Muckle, in Townsend; and forcibly broke open a chest and robbed him of 200 Dollars.—Several persons are in pursuit of them; but hitherto without effect.—

I take this opportunity of acquainting you, that Deputy Assistant Commissary General Crookshank still continues unremitting in his exertions to forward supplies to Michilimackinac. Three only of the Eleven Canoes from Montreal have proceeded to that Post.—and the crews of the three (the others having altogether refused to proceed,) he found it necessary to bribe largely for that purpose,—Mr LaMothe has returned to Montreal, to procure fresh crews,—But I have directed Colonel Claus to send steady Indians, without delay, in charge of the remaining Canoes, to Michilimackinac—and as the loss of the Nancy Schooner has been a very serious one indeed, I have directed as many Batteaux as are necessary to be taken, from York, to Nottawasaga for the purpose of transport across Lake Huron.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient humble servant Gordon Drummond Lt General

Capt. Freer Military Secretary &c. &c. &c.

[C 685-p 168.]

641

LIEUT. BULGER TO LIEUT. COL. MCDONALL

(*War—1812*)

Michilimackinac 7th Sep 1814

Sir

I have the honor to report to you the particulars of the capture of the United States Schooners Scorpion and Tigress1 by a detachment from this garrison under the command of Lieut. Worsley of the Royal Navy and myself.—

1 See appendix.

In obedience to your orders we left Michilimackinac on the evening of the 1st inst. in four boats, one of which was manned by seamen under Lieut Worsley, the others by a detachment of the Royal Newfoundland Regt. under myself, Lieutenants Armstrong & Redenhurst.— We arrived near the Detour about sun set on the following day, but nothing was attempted that night, as the enemy's position had not been correctly ascertained— The troops remained the whole of the 3d Inst. concealed amongst the roads, and about 6 o'clock that evening embarked & began to move towards the Enemy. We had to row about 6 miles, during which the most perfect order and silence reigned. The Indians which accompanied us from Mackina were left about 3 miles in our rear.—About 9 o'clock at night we discerned the enemy, and had approached to within one hundred yards of them before they hailed us. On receiving no answer, they opened a smart fire upon us both of musketry & from the 24 pr all opposition however was in vain, for in the course of five minutes the enemy's vessel was boarded and carried, by Lieut Worseley & Lieut Armstrong on the star board side, & my Boat & Lieut Radenhurst on the larboard. She proved to be the Tigress commanded by Sailing Master Champlain,1 mounting one long 24 pr and with a complement of 30 men. The defence of this vessel did credit to her officers, who were all severelly wounded, she had 3 men wounded & 3 missing supposed to have been killed and thrown immediately overboard—our Loss is 2 Seamen killed & seven soldiers & seamen slightly wounded,—

On the morning of the 4th Inst. the Prisoners were sent in a Boat to Mackina under a guard and we prepared to attack the other schooner, which we understood was anchored 15 miles farther down, the position of the Tigress was not altered and the better to carry on the deception the American Pendant was kept flying On the 5th inst. we discovered the

enemys schooner beating up to us. The soldiers I directed to keep below, or to lie down on the Deck to avoid being seen— Everything succeeded to our wish, the enemy came to anchor about 2 miles from us in the night, and as the day dawned on the 6th Inst. we slipt our Cable ran down under our Jib & 81 642 Foresail, everything was so well managed by Lt. Worsley that we were within 10 yards of the Enemy before they discovered us. it was then too late, for in the course of five minutes her deck was covered with our men and the British flag hoisted over the American. She proved to be the Scorpion, commanded by Lieut Turner of the U. S. navy carrying one long 24 pr in her hold with a complement of 32 men, she had two men killed & 2 wounded.—

I enclose a return of our killed & wounded and am happy to say that the latter are but slight.—

To the admirable good conduct and management of Lt Worsley of the Rl Navy the success is to be in a great measure attributed, but I must assure you that every officer and man did his duty.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient humble Servant A. H. Bulger Lieut. Royal Newfoundland Regt.

To Lieut. Colonel McDonall &c &c

[C 685-p 172.]

RETURN

Return of Killed and Wounded of the Troops employed in the Capture of the U. S. Schooners the Scorpion and Tigress on the 3rd and 6th Sep: 1814

Royal Artillery—One Rank & file—wounded

Royal Newfland Regt.—One Lieut & six rank & file—wounded

Officer wounded—Lieut Bulger Ry Newfd Regt—slightly

(signed) A. H. Bulger Lieut. Rl Nfd Regt

N. B. Three seamen killed

Copy J. Harvey Lt Col D. A. G

Certified Ed. Baynes Adj Qr Mr

[C 685-p 175.]

643

LIEUT. COL. MCDONALL TO LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND

(*War—1812*)

Michilimackinac 9th Sep: 1814

Sir

I have the honor to inform you that some Indians, on their way to the falls of St Mary's, returned to me with the intelligence, that part of the Enemy's Squadron had on the 25th ulto: again made their appearance in the neighbourhood of St. Joseph's likewise occupying the passage of the Detour, their intention being evidently to cut off supplies, & prevent all communications with this Garrison.

On the 31st I was joined by Lieut: Worsley1 of the Royal Navy with seventeen seamen, who had passed in a canoe sufficiently near the Enemy to ascertain them to be two schooner rigged Gun Boats of the largest class, on stating to me his opinion that they might be attacked with every prospect of success, particularly as they were at anchor

nearly five leagues asunder, I immediately determined to furnish him with requisite assistance.

1 See appendix.

In the course of the next day, four Boats were accordingly equipped, two of them with field pieces in their bows, One of them was manned by the seamen of the Navy, the remaining three by a detachment of the Royal Newfoundland Regt under Lieut Bulger, Armstrong, and Radenhurst, consisting of fifty men. The whole sailed the same evening under the command of Lieut Worsley.

I have now the satisfaction of reporting to you the complete success of the expedition. Lieut. Worsley having returned to this place, on the 7th inst with his two prizes, consisting of the U. S. schooners Scorpion and Tigress, the former carrying a long 24 and a long 12 pr, and the latter a long 24, they were commanded by Lieut: Turner of the American Navy, and are very fine vessels. For the particulars of their capture, I beg leave to refer you to the enclosed statement of Lieut Bulger, whose conduct in aiding the Execution of this enterprise (in which he was slightly wounded) reflects upon him great credit, & I beg leave to recommend him as a meritorious officer of long standing, who has been in many of the actions of this war. Lieut: Armstrong and Radenhurst possess similar claims, and with the detachment of the brave Newfoundland Regiment (who are familiar with this kind of service) merit my entire approbation, neither should I omit noticing the Zeal displayed by Mr. Dickson and Lieut: Livingston of the Indian Department, who volunteered their services on this occasion.

In calling your attention to the conspicuousment of the officer who so judiciously planed & carried into effect this well concerted enterprize. I 644 am concious that I only do Lieut Worsley a strict justice in acknowledging the eminent services which he has rendered this Garrison—You are already acquainted with the unequal conflict which he sustained at the mouth of the River. Nottawasaga and the almost unprecedented defense which he

made of the Nancy schooner with only twenty one seamen and a few Indians, against the American squadron & upwards of three hundred troops. Since that period he with his gallant little band of seamen, has traversed this extensive Lake in two boats laden with provisions for the garrison, & having at this extremity of it, discovered two of his former opponents, his active and indefatigable mind rested not, till he had relieved us from such troublesome neighbours and conducted the blockading force in triumph into our Post.

Such Sir, have been the services of Lt Worsley during the short time that he has been stationed on Lake Huron. I have to beg that you will strongly recommend him to the protection of Commodore Sir Jas Yeo & also to the patronage of His Excellency the Governor General in order that my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty may be enabled to appreciate them as they merit.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedt servant Rt. McDonall Lt. Col. Comg at Michilimackinac

To Lieut Genl Drummond

[C 685-p 176.]

INVOICE

For Michilimackinac 10th Sept. 1814.1

1 See appendix.

Loading of 16 Large and 1 small Canoe with troops & stores:

135 Bags Flour 100 lb

186 Kegs Pork 80 lb

10 Cases Guns

20 Kegs Salt

40 Bags Ball 84 lb

5 Bags Shot

24 Kegs Powder 66 lb

8 Bales Fishing tackle, &c

645

428—to be delivered at Michilimackinac

10 Kegs Spirits for Rations

Provisions for Canoes to return with

63 Bags Corn

7 Kegs Grease

508

24 Pieces Officers Baggage—besides the loading of one large Canoe & part of a small one.

7 Tents a Piece

539

[C 259-p 336.]

INVOICE

Loading for 10 Canoes to be prepared for Michilimackinac1

1 The cargo of a freighting canoe is estimated at the weight of 2,250 pounds.

to form 100 Bales

90 pieces strouds

10 “ scarlet cloth

200 pairs Blankets 3 pts

500 “ “ 2 “

200 “” small 1 & 1½

5 m Gun Flints

80 lbs Vermillion

10 Gro: Fire steels

10 do Scalping Knives

50 lbs sewing & stitching threads

30 pcs handkfs

4 Gro: Buttons

15 pieces striped Cotton

50 pieces Indian Calicoe

6 Gro: Gun worms

5 th large needles

10 Gro: Indian Awls

100 Bales Goods 10 Cases Guns 100 45 pieces each canoe & to return with 80 Kegs Powder 60 lb 5 Bags Corn 30 Bags Shot 84 lb ½ keg Grease 10 do Ball 51 110 Kegs Pork 110 Bags Flour 450 Pieces

[C 257-p 339.]

646 100 Bales Total. Lac Nipissige St. Maries Capt Rochblave Cap LaMothe. 90 160 " " " 70 pieces blue strouds " " " 11 " Red Strouds 10 13 " " 3 " Scarlet cloth 102 yds 200 300 " " 100 prs Blankets 3 pts 500 1095 4 " 14 585 " do 2 pts " 60 " " 60 do 2 " 100 150 " " 50 do 1½ " 100 150 " " 50 do 1 " 5000 10th " " 1000 4000 Gun Flints 80 120 " " 40 Vermillion " 183 " " 56 127 Bundles sturgeon twine 254, 412lb 10 16 " " 6 Gro: firesteels 10 34 " " 24 doz Scalping Knives " 12 " " 12 lb all Colored thread 50 74 " " 24 Stitching thread & Sewing " 390 " " 190 200 Net thread " 6 " " 6 Common Roual Hankfs " 10 " " 10 pieces blue Molton " 35 " " 35 Laced Hats " 10 " " 10 Hangers " 200 " " 200 Yds Uncd lace 4 5 " " 1 Gro: Gilt Buttons " 1 " " 1 " White Metal—do— " 2 " " 2 pieces Brown Russia sheeting 30 45 " " 15 " Bk Silk Handfs 15 22 " " 7 " striped Cotton 253 yds " 123 " " 123 " Cod lines 1000 " " 1000 Cod Hooks 50 50 " " Pc Indian Calicoe 6 6 Gro: Gun worms 5 5 Needles w 1000 10 474 4 114—10 10 Cases Guns 120 & 100 & 114 & 40 " 6200lb 48 " 12 Bales Carrot Tobacco —1150lb & 5000th 10 89 18 1 40 20 Bags Balls 1680lb 30 73 18 " 5 20 " Shot 1680th " 3 " 3 Baskets Tin Kettles 6 Nests 30 140 18 45lb 24 18 Kegs Gun powder 66 #lb each 110 394 " " 184 100 Kegs Pork 7824lb & 14000lb 110 475 " 90 135 140 Bags Flour, 14000lb—13500lb & 9720lb 1 20 " " 19 Kegs salt

N. B. 2 Batteaux load & 1 Canoe load of Provisions by Worsly not comprehended in the above.

[C 275-p. 341.]

647

INVOICE

Invoice of Sundries shipped in the Brigade of Canoes which left Lachine the 10th of Septr 1814 for Michilimackinac in charge of Pierre Rocheblave Esqr & consigned to Lieut Colonel McDonall

I P No 1 c 8 Recapitulation of 8 Bales Indian Presents vizt

23 pairs Blankets 2½ pts

123 Cod Lines 18 lb

56 Bdles Sturgeon Twine 2 lb ea

1000 Cod Hooks

190 lb net thread

1000 Gun Hints

Guns Blankets

10 Cases Chiefs Guns 10 ea & a Blanket of 2½ pts ea 100 & 5 prs

40 Bags Ball 84 lb ea 3360 lb

5 Bags Beaver Shot 84 ea 420 lb

24 Kegs Gunpowder 66# lb ea 1600 lb

I. Bleakley 1

1 Josiah Bleakley, who was Indian Storekeeper and Clerk at Mackinac as far back as 1872. See Mich. P. & H. Coll., Vol. XIII, p. 73.

[C 257-p 349.]

INVOICE

Invoice Of Sundries shipped in the Brigade of Canoes which left Lachine the 10th September 1814 for Michilimackinac in charge of Pierre Rochblave Esqr, and Consigned to Asst. Commy Genl Monk

I. P 184 Kegs pork Ave Wt 76 lb ea

7 “ Tallow wt 450 lb for return canoes

63 Bags Indian Corn 1½ Bush: ea—do

135 Bags Flour 100 lb ea:

19 Kegs Salt

I. (Josiah) Bleakley

[C 257-p 350.]

RECAPITULATION

Recapitulation of the Loading of 11 Canoes leaving La Chine the 22d Sept 1814 in charg of Mr. Alexr McKenzie Esqr Addressed to Lt Col McDonall Michilimackinac

I. P. 100 Bales Dry Goods 100 ea

80 Kegs Gunpowder 66# ea

35 Bags Shot 84 ea

10 Bags Ball 84 ea

10 Cases Guns 10 ea

5 Bales Tobacco (Carrot) 32 carrot ea; avge 93 lb ea

110 Bags Flour 100 lb each

110 Kegs Pork 76½ lb each

1 Keg Salt 9 Gallons

15 Bags Pease ½ Bush ea:

50 Bags Indian Corn 1½ “ “

4 Kegs Tallow 64½ ea

530 Pieces

I. (Josiah) Bleakley

N. B. 4 Canoes of 47 pieces=188

6 do of 49 “ 294

1 do of — 48

530

[C 257-p 351.]

INVOICE

Invoice Of Sundries shipped in the Brigade of Canoes which left La Chine 22d Sept 1814, for Michilimackinac, in charge of Alexr. McKenzie Esqr and consigned to Lt. Col. McDonall

I. P.

1c 100 Recapitulation of 100 Bales Indian Presents vizt

90 Pieces

85 pieces Blue strouds

5 do Black do

10 do (say one half pieces Scarlet cloth

189 pairs blankets 3 pts

495 do do 2½ pts & in 10 Gun cases 1 Blanket ea: 500 prs

150 do do 1½ “

150 do do 1 “

5th Gun Flints

100 lb Vermilion

10 Gro: Fire steels

10 “ Scalping knives

649

25 lb Stitching Thread

6 Ounce thread

10 doz black silk Handfs

20 do cold do

4 Gro: metal buttons

15 pieces 6-4 stripd Cotton

4 Gro: Gun worms

5 m Sewing Needles

20 Gro: Garters asstd

50 pieces 9d Ribbon vizt

10 Purple 10 Crimson 15 Orange & 15 Green

2 lb Sewing Silk all Colors

30 masses Garnets

10 Cases Chiefs Guns 10 ea: & 1 Blanket of 2½ pts

80 Kegs Gunpowder Nt wt each 66# lb

35 Bags Shot 84 lb ea:

10 Bags Ball 84 ea:

5 Bales Carrot Tobacco 32 Carrot ea: wt 466 lb

20 Musquets with slings & Bayonets in three cases

(Sgd) I. (Josiah) Bleakley

[C 257-p 352.]

INSTRUCTIONS

Instructions for the distribution of Indian Presents, Embarked in thirteen Canoes under the charge of Mr. Porlier1 for Michilimackinac &c

A canoe having been detained here for medals, silver works and Flags not then arrived and to carry more particular instructions regarding the Indian Presents in the Twelve Canoes lately dispatched, including what the present one may contain, I now confirm what was written by Mr Porlier, vizt., that the goods marked M with the exceptions herein after mentioned, are for the Indians usually supplied from the Post with Presents, and to be distributed as such under the direction of the officer commanding, with the customary formalities, and in such manner as shall be most conducive to the benefit of His Majesty's service, for confirming the Indians in their attachment to this Government, or reclaiming such of them (if any there be) as from any unforseen Misfortune or Circumstance may be wavering.

Those goods marked I, with the additions below are intended as presents to the Western Indians who are under the agency of Robert Dickson Esq. 82 650 and especially such tribes thereof as furnished warriors under his directions, or by his orders; and are on no account to be touched at the Post, otherwise than for safe keeping, until he or Captain Wm McKay, or some other person specially sent, shall appear for the purpose of conducting the same to La Baye,1 or such other place as may be found most proper for the distribution thereof of Mr. Dickson, Capt McKay or such other person specially sent, to

the Western Indians under his Agency as above said in such manner as he shall judge to be most conducive to the benefit of His Majesty's service as above said.

1 Green bay.

It being considered an object of the greatest importance under present circumstances, that the goods I with the additions after mentioned should be sent to La Baye or further, The officer Commanding at Michilimackinac will grant every possible aid for affecting that object by furnishing Batteaux or canoes and takling, with men to man them, from the Corps of Michigan Fencibles, who should be instructed to follow the orders of Mr. Dickson or Capt McKay whilst employed in the conveyance of these goods.

Instructions were sent by Mr. Porlier, that all the Canoes and takling from hence are to be delivered over to Mr Frederick Oliver, after unloading, excepting twelve Oyl Cloths, which are to be retained for the protection from the weather, of the said goods I when transporting to La Baye.

These instructions are now confirmed and Mr. Oliver will provision the Guides and men on their voyage down with Packs, respecting which they are to follow his orders, the officer commanding will cease to have further trouble with them.

As the Ball & Shot were not susceptible of being marked, so as to retain it visible the distribution thereof is to be as follows, viz:

24 Bags Ball M and 36 bags for I

4 “ Beaver do “ 8 “ “ I

10 “ Duck do “ 10 “ “ I

If of the Gunpowder sent this season there now remains at Michilimackinac ten kegs or upwards the commanding officer will in such case, retain only 20 kegs of that lately

sent, and consider sixty one thereof as belonging to the goods I and to accompany the same, but if there are not 10 kegs of the former powder remaining, then thirty kegs of that by these Canoes, are to remain for M and fifty one to be applied to the mark I and be forwarded therewith, at same time it is much wished that there may be the means of sending sixty kegs of powder with the goods I.

The Tobacco being by mistake all marked M Twenty five bales thereof viz: 41 & 65 only, are for that mark, and forty bales vizt: 1 & 40 are for 651 the goods I and consequently to be sent with them, the same as if those bales had been so marked.

The medals, silver Works & Flags, not having been yet received here, must form the subject of a separate memorandum at the foot of the Invoice or otherwise.

And the officer commanding, as well as Mr. Dickson and all others concerned, are to consider it as a most peremptory and special instruction, that the strictest impartiality in the distribution to Indians is to be followed, and the good of His Majesty's service is to be the paramount rule.

All the goods without exception are in the first instance to be Delivered over to the senior officer in the Indian Department, who will afterwards without delay, transfer the portion destined for La Baye to Mr. Dickson, Capt McKay or other person appointed to take charge thereof, for the purpose of being distributed according to the instructions herein given.

By authority of the Commander of the Forces

(Sgd) R. H. Sheaffe M. Genl. & &

To the Commanding officer and all others concerned Michilimackinac & & &

[C 257-p 358.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SECRETARY FREER

(*War—1812*)

Camp before Fort Erie September 19th 1814

Sir

I have the honor to acquaint you for the information of His Excellency, The Commander of the Forces, that a body of the Enemy returned to Port Talbot, on the 9th Inst:, accompanied by Traitor Westbrook, and some Indians.—After burning the Mills there, and several houses and Barns, (amongst which was that of Colonel Burwell of the Militia) and destroying all Colonel Talbot's Flour, and Killing several of his Cattle; they advanced, down the Talbot Road, about 15 Miles; plundering, and paroling the Inhabitants.—they then retired to the Moravian Town, about 28 Miles from Port Talbot, to wait the arrival of reinforcements from Detroit; when it appears, (from the information of spies who have been amongst them,) to be their intention to advance to Long Point; where, should they succeed in destroying the several Mills in that neighbourhood, the consequences will be most severely 652 felt both by the Inhabitants and the Troops of the Right Division in particular.

Colonel Talbot has detached Captain Bostwick, with 60 men of the Militia to assist the settlers in checking the advance of the Enemy again.

The nefarious disposition of the Enemy cannot be more strongly evinced, than in the Wanton burning the Buildings of Colonel Barwell; whom they had already carried off as a Prisoner on a former occasion

I have the honor to be Sir &c. &c.

Gordon Drummond Lt. General

Capt. Freer Mil: Secty &c. &c. &c.

[C 685-p 208.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

District Head Quarters Niagara Falls 10th October 1814

Sir

Since my communication to Major Genl. Kempt (of the 7th) the greatest part of the Enemy's force under General Izard has moved upwards. The object of this movement, I have not yet been able to ascertain. From several sources of information however, to which I have access, I have undoubted intelligence (confirmed by deserters) that a great effort is about to be made by the Enemy to Capture or to force this division back from this frontier, on which it is obvious he proposes to cover his troops during the winter:—General Brown has received a reinforcement of Regular troops from Detroit variously stated from five hundred to a thousand, three hundred dragoons have also joined him from Pennsylvania, and about two hundred Riflemen have been added to his 4th Regiment.—Two thousand Militia men are daily expected at Fort Erie and have been seen on their way. Horses have been passed over for the Artillery in Fort Erie and are constantly trained to the Field Guns.—General Brown's force cannot be estimated at less than six thousand (including three thousand Militia) that of General Izard *Six* Regiments of Regulars.—Their mode of attack does not yet seem decided on, I do not think it improbable that having the undisturbed possession of Lake Erie, and feeling the difficulty of forcing the passage of the *Chippawa* ,1 he may attempt to gain our rear by the *Grand River* , or by *Long Point* , such

1 Chippawa creek which flows into the Niagara river about three miles above the falls.

653 a movement, though offering great obstacles to the Enemy (particularly if the inhabitants do their duty by removing the cattle and waggons) Yet as it would compel me to detach from the small force under my command, could not fail of very much embarrassing me particularly as I should have to watch and to meet the attack of the Troops under General Izard who it is understood is to operate on the Right Flank of the Niagara.

The following changes have been made in the distribution of the Troops since my last; —the advance Posts are still a little in front of the Black Creek,1 the bridge over which has been destroyed, and from which I have thought it prudent to withdraw the troops and Guns, with the exception of a detachment of 50 men of the Glengary Light Infantry, the remainder of that Regiment is stationed at Street's Grove—the 6th Regiment at Chippawa with the Incorporated Militia at *Wischorns* on the forks of the Lyons and Chippawa, about a mile above the mouth of the latter, and on which a field work is now constructing, to be armed with a long 12 pdr—the right of the position is further watched by small parties of Militia and Dragoons extending as high as Browns Bridge, sixteen miles up the Chippawa, and to Cooks Mills ten miles up the Lyon's Creek.—it is my intention also to throw the Indians over this River, and unless assailed in my centre by the force under Genl Izard, I do not apprehend its being possible for the Enemy to force it, & to turn the position of Chippawa which I do not think he will venture to attack *in front* , that is, if I am allowed a couple of days to mount the guns proposed to be placed in Battery at that place, & which a sketch shall accompany my next letter. The 79th 82nd and Royals are cantoned from Bridgewater to Stamford—they can be concentrated at or near Chippawa in two hours time—A force consisting of 89th & 100th Regiments flank Companies 104th one troop 19th Dragoons with two Six pounders, under Lieut Colonel Lord Tweeddale occupies Queenston—the remaining corps, vizt 8th 41st and dilbatterelles are in the Forts Missesaga, Niagara, and Fort George.

1 Black creek, south of the Chippawa, opposite the middle of Grand island in the Niagara.

I have ordered the formation of a small Depot of Ammunition and provisions at the 12 Mile Creek, to which place the baggage of the army will be sent in case of attack— The Brigs & Schooners under Captain Dobbs have been employed in removing the sick to York and the 40 mile Creek.—I willingly avail myself of this occasion to express my warm approbation of the cordial and zealous cooperation which I have uniformly experienced from Capt. Dobbs of the Royal Navy, whose whole conduct while acting with this Division entitles him and the officers and seamen under his command to our grateful acknowledgements.

654

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's letter of the 30th enclosing copy of one to Sir James Yeo, in Cypher;

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellency's most obedient humble servant Gordon Drummond Lt General

His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bart, &. &.

[C 686-p 9.]

THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

Horse Guards 15th Octr. 1814

Sir

I am very much pleased with the report you communicate of the conduct of Lieutenant Colonel McDonal in the repulse of the Enemy's attacks upon the Posts of Michilimackinac and also of the successful Issue of an Expedition from that Island and Lieut: Colonel McKay against the American Establishment at La Prarie du Chein.

I am Sir Yours Frederick Commander in Chief

Lieutenant General Sir George Prevost Bt. &c &c &c

[C 686-p 29.]

INVOICE

Invoice of Sundry Indian Stores delivered Robert Dickson Esqr. Agent & Superintendent of the Western Nations by order of Lieut. Coln. McDonall Comdg Michilimackinac.

Arm Bands Pairs thirty

Buttons doz Twenty four

Beads Pounds thirty

Brooches No Eighteen hundred and 74

Ball & Sho lbs Five thousand & 460

655

Blankets

1 point No one hundred & seventy nine

1½ do " Ninety

2 do " One hundred & ninety seven

2½ do " Eleven hundred & three

3 do " Two hundred & ninety five

Cotton striped Yards Four hundred & eight

Cloth Broad “ One hundred & fifty one

Candle week Balls Six

Ear bobs Pairs Twelve hundred & fifty

Epaulets No Ten

Flints “ Four thousand five hundred

Feathers “ Ten

Files & Rasps “ Eighteen

Gorgets “ Forty

Garnets Bunches Fifteen

Gartering Gro. Eleven

Guns

Muskets No Five

Common “ One hundred & five

Chiefs & fine “ One hundred & thirty eight

Gun powder lbs. Three thousand nine hundred & 33

Hats Laced No Twenty seven

Handfs

Silk “ Four hundred & sixteen

Cotton “ Fifty

Hangers “ Eighteen

Hooks Cod “ Two hundred

Iron pounds One hundred & two

Knives butcher No Five hundred & sixty six

Kettles Tin “ Sixty

Lace Brocade Yards Two hundred

Molton “ Two hundred

Needles No Three thousand five hundred

Pistols “ Six

Ribbon Yds Nine hundred

Skins deer No Fifty

Silk Sewing pounds one

Steel

fire No Seventeen hundred and thirty two

German lbs Forty two

Sheeting Russia Yds Seventy five

Saches silk No Five

Lines Cod “ Fourteen

Strouds Yds Eighteen hundred & twenty

Flour lbs Four thousand

656

Thread

Sewing lbs Forty eight

Net “ Eighteen

Twine " Twenty eight

Tommyhawks Pipe No Four

Vermillion lbs Fifty eight

Wampum collars No Nine

Worms Gun Gro: Two

Indian Department Michilimackinac 29th Octr 1814

Jno Askin

[C 258-p 16.]

REPORT

Report made by Capt. William McKay to His Excellency Sir George Prevost

Captain William McKay has the Honor to Report to His Excellency Sir George Prevost Governor General and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces in America, that in compliance to instructions received from Major General Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe by authority from the Commander of the Forces, a copy of which instructions are hereunto annexed, Capt. McKay on the 21st day of September last left Montreal on a voyage to Michilimackinac in a Canoe with Medals, Silver Works and Flags, &c part of the Indian presents; That twelve Canoes, loaded with Indian Presents left Montreal about the 12th September. That this last mentioned Canoes Capt. McKay overtook on the 26th September at a place called Matua or the entrance of the little river. That Capt. McKay informed Mr. Porlier who had charge of the said Canoes, that he had the instructions from the Commander of the Forces to proceed to Michilimackinac and take measures conformable to such instructions with Mr. Robert Dickson if arrived at Michilimackinac for the purpose of distributing the said Indian Presents to the Several Tribes of Indians according to the instructions and desire of Government. That Capt. McKay for that purpose proceeded on, and desired Mr. Porlier to follow him with the utmost expedition. Capt. McKay arrived at Michilimackinac on the 9th day of October, and not finding Mr. Dickson there, Capt McKay immediately reported his arrival to Capt Bullock of the 41st Regiment Commanding the Fort of Michilimackinac and communicated to him the instructions of his mission there, and as Mr. Dickson was not arrived, he Capt. McKay would require assistance as he expected he would be obliged to proceed to La Baye and the Mississipi with the goods and presents he had with him as well as those coming on with Mr. Porlier. 657 That Capt. Bullock afforded Capt. McKay every assistance in preparing for his intended voyage, in Boats, men, & provisions, &c. &c. That the said twelve Canoes under Mr. Porlier arrived at Michilimackinac on the 19th & 20th October. That Capt. McKay delivered over all the goods mkd M to *Mr. Askin the senior officer of the Indian Department*

and retained those marked I and as the winter was there set in, and nearly a foot of snow on the Ground and all the small brooks frozen over, not a moment was lost to load the boats prepared to forward the said goods and presents to their respective destination conformable to the Instructions Capt. McKay had received upon his leaving Montreal. That Capt. McKay had taken every precaution to proceed in person to La Baye and the Mississipi as Mr. Dickson had not arrived at Michilimackinac. However when everything was ready for the Departure of Capt. McKay Mr. Dickson arrived and to him Capt. McKay gave over six Boats which he had loaded with the goods and presents marked I intended for the Western Indians, at the same time Capt McKay offered to accompany Mr. Dickson if he Mr. Dickson thought his presence any wise necessary upon which Mr. Dickson observed to Capt. McKay, that he had with him several officers and interpreters and that he would distribute the said goods and presents to the Indians according to the desire and wishes of Government, and particularly desired that Capt. McKay would return to Lower Canada and report to the Commander of the Forces the very great desire he Mr. Dickson had to receive by express, as soon as possible, instructions, what the Government wished him to do in respect to the Tribes of Indians next spring, that for the present he was quite at a loss how to act, that in the mean time he would endeavour to do for the best. Capt. McKay cannot refrain from again mentioning the very great anxiety evinced by Mr. Dickson to have instructions from Government for his Guidance and conduct in respect to the Tribes of Indians under his influence; That on the 24th October Mr. Dickson having received from the commanding officer and from Capt. McKay every assistance, set out for LaBay and the Mississipi with six boats loaded with the said presents and maned with a detachment of the Michigan Fencibles consisting of a Lieutenant and 26 men and 14 Canadians, Mr. Dickson brought with him from York. That although the season was much advanced as above mentioned Capt. McKay has no doubt but Mr. Dickson will arrive at his destination and there find the Indians waiting for him, as Capt. McKay immediately and without the least loss of time sent an Express, one Rock, an Indian Interpreter to acquaint the Indians that the presents were coming on, and that Mr. Dickson or he Capt. McKay, would go on with them to make the distribution thereof. As provisions 83 658 were scarce

at Michilimackinac, Capt. McKay knowing that flour could be obtained at LaBay sent on a Mr. Grignon to procure it and have it ready so that the two boats with 14 men that were to go to Labay might return immediately with Flour which from the precautions taken, Mr. McKay has no doubt will be done, in order to obtain a further supply of Provisions, Capt. Bullock was the day after Capt McKay left Michilimackinac, that is on the 27th October to send two boats to Machidash bay for the Pork and Flour, Mr. Dickson informed Captain Bullock had been there, forwarded by Government, That all these arrangements having been made, Capt. McKay on the 25th Octr. left Michilimackinac to return to Montreal, where he arrived on the 5th November and has now the honor of making this present report to the Commander of the Forces.

[C 257-p 361.]

THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Horse Guards 20th Oct. 1814

Sir ,

In transmitting to you the accompanying copy of a Letter, with its enclosures addressed to me by Major General Proctor, I have only to remark that it is due to that Officer that he should be afforded every fair indulgence, and especially that such public papers & witnesses as he may require should be furnished.

I am Sir Yours Frederick Commander in Chief.

Lieut General Sir George Prevost Bt &c. &c. &c.

[C 686-p 39.]

CHAPLAIN POLLARD TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*Chaplaincies*)

To His Excellency Sir George Prevost Baronet, Captain General and Governor in Chief, in and over the Provinces of Lower and Upper Canada, Nova Scotia New Brunswick, &c, &c, &c

659

May it please Your Excellency.—

The memorial of the revd Richard Pollard Chaplain of the Garrison of Amherstburg, humbly sheweth—That your memorialist has been Chaplain to the Garrison of Amherstburg, since the year 1802:—eight years of which period, your memorialist performed the duty of Chaplain at his own Expence, altho situated at Sandwich 16 mile from the Garrison; and that at present he is an involuntary exile, from that place.—Your memorialist has been on his duty, with the right division of the Army, from the invasion of the W District by Genl Hull to this unfortunate capture at the Moravian Towns.—Your memorialist furnished a horse for the Militia & Troops, for 12 months without any charge to Government; & eventually escaped with little more than bear necessaries. Your memorialist, humbly solicits of your excellent goodness, to continue him in the list of Chaplains, and your memorialist as in duty bound will for ever pray.

Richd Pollard

Chaplain to the Garrison of Amherstburg—

Ernest Town Octo 20th 1814

[C 64-p 67.]

FROM CAPTAIN BOSTWICK

(*War—1812*)

Yarmouth, Talbot Road 3d Novr 1814 10 o'clock Forenoon

Sir

Two men have this moment arrived from the River Thames, a few miles below Moravian with intelligence that the Enemy from 800 to 1000 Men mounted with two three Pounders and a Howetzer, left the Moravian Town on Monday last at 11 oclock in the morning, intending to encamp that night at Flemings. The Enemy's march was so secret, it was not known they were on the Thames until they had been more than a day at Moravian.

It appears they marched up the River St. Clair circulating a report they were going against Sagaunau, Crossed the River to Bell Down, proceeded up the Bear River till they were opposite Moravians.—and crossed over to that place, carrying their Field pieces on Horses.—The probability is that they were at Delaware or Westminster last night. The language in circulation with them at Moravians was, that they were going to Burlington. But I cannot think their intentions are of that nature, but rather that they 660 intend ravaging this District. They are composed almost of Kentuckians, undisciplined—This intelligence I will venture to say may be relied on.—The Enemy is commanded by Genl McArthur.

I have sent some intelligent men early this morning to Delaware and Westminster.

I am Sir Your obedient servant (Signed) John Bostwick Capt Regt Norfolk

The officer Commanding Long Point

[C 686-p. 139.]

LIEUT. COL. SMELT TO LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND

(*War—1812*)

Burlington Heights One o'clock P. M. Nov. 5th

Sir ,

Lieut Col. Parry being so unwell has requested me to forward the enclosed Letters which he has just received, from all the information we get, I believe really that the Enemy are moving towards this place. I fear we shall not have more than three hundred Regulars. He has called out the Militia, and ordered the Indians in but I am sorry to say they are very slow in moving.

I have the honor to be Sir Your obt humble Servt (Signed) Wm. Smelt Lt. Col.

Lt. Genl. Drummond or Officer Commanding Right Division

[C 686-p 140.]

MR. DANCE TO LIEUT. COL. SMELT

(War—1812)

My Dr. Sir ,

An Indian *News-Call* is just arrived I understand from Mr. Askin1 & Mr. Smith we can rely upon it. They left Malcom's Mills after Sun-down. The

1 John B. Askin, commissary's clerk in Proctor's army. The information the Indian runner conveys from him refers to Col. McArthur's raid at that time progressing.

661 Americans had then returned there and were proceeding this way. Three Shawanese are left behind to bring further news. I have thought it best to send on a runner to you directly. The principal chief of the Mohawks here has been very particular with them

& says it is certainly fact. The Indian idea seems to be that they are going back by the Governor's road but this is only conjecture. They have sent to urge every Indian to pursue them or to resist at the river if they attempt to cross.

Yrs very truly Ed. Dance A. C. G.

Lt. Col. Smelt Fowlers.

[C 686-p 155.]

A PROCLAMATION

By John Miller Esquire , Colonel of the 17th Regiment United States Infantry Military & civil Commandment of that district of Upper Canada which is above the Round O, or Lake Erie.

Whereas Information has been received that the citizens of said District have on hand large quantities of supplies Grain and whereas it is Deemed Essential to the Interests of the Service as well as beneficial to the citizens of sd District that the same should be purchased for the use of the States.

Therefore the citizens of the sd are required and positively commanded to bring & deliver to such person & at such places as shall be hereinafter specified, all the Flour Wheat & Oats which they may have on hand more than is absolutely necessary for the use & consumption of their Families & Stock. The whole of sd surplus Flour & Grain shall be delivered on or before the first day of November next. Those Persons who reside on the River Thames above & contiguous to Dolsons will deliver their Flour & Grain at that place. Those living below Dolsons & those on the Lake St Clair and Detroit River & on their waters as low as the mouth of the Canard will deliver their Flour & Grain at Detroit. and those living below the Mouth of the Canard River as far down Lake Erie as Point on Plait1 will deliver theirs at Amherstburg. Major John H. Piatt the Conductor & Capt J. McCloskey A. D. Quarter Master General will appoint agents at those places to receive & pay for the

flour & grain so delivered at the following prices (Six dollars per cwt or twelve dollars per Barrel for Flour, one dollar and a half for wheat—and three quarters of a dollar for oats per Bushel, Also Flour Wheat & Oats over & above what will be absolutely necessary for domestic use not

1 Point au Pelee.

662 delivered at one of the above places on or before the first day of November next agreeable to this order shall be immediately destroyed & the person or persons withholding such supplies of Flour or Grain or failing to deliver within the time prescribed shall be severely punished. Three Impartial Persons shall be appointed to inspect whether more Flour or Grain has been withheld or kept back than is absolutely necessary for domestic use, The citizens within the vicinity of Dolsons will be held responsible in case the Flour & Grain deposited at that place is destroyed by secret or clandestine measures. Given under my hand at Malden U. C. this 26th Sept 1814—

John Miller Col. 17th Regt Comg.

F. Malden 5th Nov 1814

N. B. The time specified for delivery on the above Proclamation being too limited the officer commanding the Western District of U. Canada deems it necessary to put it off to the 20th Dec. next at which time no failures are expected from the Inhabitants—

[C 686-p 250.]

LIEUT. COL. SMELT TO MAJ. GEN DE WATTEVILLE

(*War—1812*)

Fowlers 11 oclock night Novr 7th

Sir ,

I have the honor to forward the enclosed Letter by which it appears that the Enemy are again advancing towards the Grand River. I think it not improbable but that they may attempt to cross by swimming their Horses I shall proceed at day Light in the morning as it is impossible to go through the Swamp in the night. Malcolm's Mills is twelve miles on the other side of the Grand River. They are however at different places. By returning to the Grand River they may have received or heard of reinforcements from Long Point at which place they have said they expected them. I shall forward all information as quick as possible. The Americans I understand might very well land three miles down the River by which means they might get to our Rear.

I have the honor to be Sir Your very obt Servt Wm Smelt Lt Col Major 103d

M. Genl. de Watteville &c. &c. &c.

[C 686-p 156.]

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MAJ. GEN. DE WATTEVILLE TO LIEUT. COL. HARVEY

(*War—1812*)

Burlington Nov. 8th—1814 ½ past 6 o'clock a. m.

My Dear Sir ,

Understanding on my arrival here that General Drummond is at York, I lose no time in enclosing you a report, received this morning from Lt. Col. Smelt, and a letter from that officer to Colonel Parry. The reports respecting the Enemy's movements appear to be rather contradictory. I shall proceed immediately to Ancaster and act according to circumstances—If the enemy should be actually on his retreat, which I think very probable,

he having destroyed every mill, I suppose General Drummond would approve of my returning without delay to the Falls.

Believe me my dear Sir Yours faithfully & obediently L. De Watteville M. Genl.

Lt. Coll. J. Harvey D. A. G.

[C 686-p 162.]

FROM LIEUT. COL. SMELT—UNADDRESSED

(*War—1812*)

Grand River Swamp Nov. 8th 1814

Sir ,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Report of the Enemy having returned to Malcolm's Mills was unfounded, they are still going off towards Long Point and I have no doubt but they are going back by Talbots' Road, however I shall be able to give correct information in the course of the night, Capt. Chambers of the Quarter Master Generals Dept is gone over the River with some of the Dragoons & Indians & will I am certain hear the very best Intelligence, which I will forward immediately I receive it. The last I heard of the Enemy was that they were near Turkey Point—If this Information was correct it was my intention to have returned to Burlington to morrow morning for the purpose of embarking for Lower Canada; should the 37th have arrived as we only have 180 effective men here, and the greatest part of them convalescent—One Six Pounder has arrived here, but 664 which I shall retain here till I hear from Capt Chambers, as the Road between this & the Grand River is a Swamp nearly the whole way. The Enemy's force we have ascertained to be as near as possible 1500 mounted Riflemen—I think could the Indians be persuaded to follow them a number might fall into our hands, but they do not seem at all inclined—

The number of men I have with me is about 200 Regulars including 27 of the 19th Lt. Dragoons. about 400 Indians & perhaps 150 Militia, but I am sorry to say the Indians are falling back very fast, their great complaint is want of shoes. The Enemy burn everything they fall in with, which is of very great detriment to this part of the Country, they do not seem to commit other Depredations. I daresay the Indians would go if they had regular troops with them but as the Enemy have such a start, and are all mounted no regulars could possibly overtake them unless they halt on the Road, which they will not do—Genl [illegible] having left Fort Erie, to which place they were proceeding—

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obt humb Servant Wm Smelt Lt. Col.

[C 686-p 165.]

MAJ. GEN. DE WATTEVILLE TO LIEUT. COL. HARVEY

(*War—1812*)

Ancaster Nov 9th 1814.

My Dear Sir ,

On my arrival here yesterday about 12 o'clock, I wrote immediately to Lt. Col. Smelt, requesting him to forward to me any further intelligence he might have received of the Enemy's movements, and meeting at this place Lt. Kemble of the Glengarry Lt. Infantry I detained him with the representation that I should be able this morning more positive information. By the enclosed Letter from Lt. Col. Smelt, arrived last night, there appears to be little doubt but the enemy are on their way back, after having destroyed all the mills in that part of the country which has probably been one (the principal) object of their expedition—Capt. Chambers's more correct Intelligence expected by Col. Smelt has not yet arrived, but thinking that Gen'l Drummond may be waiting for Lt. Kemble's return, I do not deem it proper to detain that officer any longer. The moment I receive 665 Capt.

Chambers report I shall not fail to forward it to you, dispatching at the same time an Express to Fort George to inform M. Genl Stovin of the situation of affairs in this part of the Country.

I have the honor to be My Dear Sir Yours very faithfully and obediently L: de Watteville

Lt. Col. Harvey &c. &c. &c.

[C 686-p 168.]

CAPT. CHAMBERS TO LIEUT. COL. SMELT

(*War—1812*)

7 o'clock A. M. Soverains Mills 9th Nov. 1814.

My Dear Sir ,

Owing to the destruction of the Scow at the Grand River, the party did not get across until late; and arrived at Major Rees last night after dark, I then forwarded my advance to this place, an American spy was here last night & attempted to steal a Horse but was pursued. he left the horse & escaped. The Enemy have plundered the Country in a most shameful manner, stole the horses clothing & burned all the mills as far as this.

Serjt Collins of the 4th Regt & Private Barto of the Militia were killed and — in a most horrible manner. Barto was actually butchered—(no appearance of having been shot) both scalped and cut shockingly. I shall proceed as far as I can with safety & let you know if any thing occurs worth communicating.

Believe me Dear Sir Your very obt. Servt B. Chambers D. A. Q. M. G

Lt. Col. Smelt 103d Regt

[C 686-p 180.] 84

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MAJ. GEN. DE WATTEVILLE TO LIEUT. COL. HARVEY

(*War—1812*)

Ancaster 10th Nov. 1814.

Sir ,

In answer to your letter of the 8th dispatch from York (which I received last night) I have the honor to acquaint you, that by the best information I have been able to collect, & which may be *perfectly relied on* , the Enemy consisting of about 1500 men, all mounted, are by this time a long way from Long Point, on their march back—On the 6th they were on the Grand River, but without making any serious attempt to cross it; it appears that they commenced their retreat on the evening of that day, burning every mill they fell in with, with the exception of two as mentioned in the enclosed note from Colonel Talbot. The destruction of the mills & the means of subsistence appears to have been one of the principal objects of their Expedition—Capt. Chambers with the party of Dragoons under Capt Eustace crossed the Grand River on the Evening of the 8th & has since sent in the enclosed report—I expect every moment to hear of his having arrived at Long Point—

The Right Wing of the 37th Regt has arrived at Burlington only yesterday in the afternoon & the other wing is expected at that place in the course of this day—Agreeable to the directions contained in your letter, one wing of the 37th with two six Pounders will march tomorrow morning from Burlington to Long Point (provided the commissary can make the necessary arrangements for the subsistence of the Troops) which perhaps may be found difficult in consequence of the depredations committed by the Enemy—I hope however that the two mills that fortunately have been spared will remove the difficulties—

The other wing of the 37th will remain at Burlington, the Enemy having retreated so far, that no apprehensions of an attack are to be entertained. The 103d Regt are marching to day from the Grand River Swamp to the Outlet, where according to Information received by Lt. Col. Smelt, two Brigs have arrived to convey them to Kingston. I have sent orders to the detachment of the 19th Dragoons under Captain Eustace, to take up their Quarters at Long Point—Major Lisle with the few men & serviceable Horses he has with him, remains at this place; & I believe it would be well to order the detachment which was on the Black Creek to join him at Ancaster if they are not wanted on the Niagara Frontier; I have mentioned this to Genl. Stovin—

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I hope you have received my dispatch of the 6th & the letter of yesterday transmitted by Lieut. Kemble of the Glengarry Light Infantry.

I remain My dear Sir Yrs. very faithfully & obediently L: de Watteville M. General

Lt. Col. Harvey D. A. G.

[C 686-p 181.]

MR. CHAMBERS TO MAJ. GEN. DE WATTEVILLE

(*War—1812*)

Long Point 10th November 1814

Sir

I have the honor to report that the Enemy have retreated towards Amherstburg1 by Colonel Talbots Road with the greatest precipitency leaving a number of Horses &c behind them; The avowed object of the Enemy was to destroy all the Mills in the country (so as to prevent our advancing this winter to Amherstburg) which I happily defeated by the rapidity

of my advance. I did not give them time to complete the work of destruction, three mills being left; had we not arrived in time the whole of this valuable settlement must have fallen a prey to famine this winter; at present not a single Barrel of Flour is to be purchased in the District. The Enemy have plundered the Inhabitants most disgracefully and stole every Horse they could find.

1 Gen. McArthur arrived at Sandwich Nov. 17, 1814, indicating that he took the march deliberately and at ease.

To Captain Eustace and Lieutenant Horton 19th Light Dragoons, I am under great obligations for the spirit and unwearied activity they have displayed on this occasion, the conduct of the Troops was excellent.—I beg leave to mention that Major Salmon of the 2nd Norfolk Militia was of great service to me and very active

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient humble servant (Signed) P. L. Chambers D. A. Qr. Mr. G1

To Major General De Watteville

[C 686-p 187.]

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LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SECRETARY FREER

(*War—1812*)

Kingston Novemr 12th 1814.

Sir ,

I have the honor to transmit sundry letters, enclosed by Major General De Watteville, received here last night, relative to the proceedings on the Grand River. I look for further

reports with anxiety; which I will not fail to forward without delay, for the information of His Excellency, The Commander of the Forces, immediately on receipt of them

I have the Honor to be Sir Your most obedient humble Servant Gordon Drummond Lt. General

Captain Freer Military Secretary &c &c &c

[C 686-p 164.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO COMMODORE YEO

(*War—1812*)

Head Quarters Kingston 13 November 1814

Sir ,

Having just received an account of the destruction by the Enemy of all the Resources (and the Mills) of the country to the westward of the Grand River, from which we have calculated upon receiving the principal part of the supplies destined to support the Regular Troops & Indians during the approaching winter, it becomes absolutely necessary that the means of feeding them should be forwarded from hence before the close of the navigation1 —I cannot exactly state the quantity of Transport which will be required, but I can without hesitation say that nothing less than the aid of the whole Squadron will be sufficient to relieve the urgent wants of the Right Division of the Army. In the event of your agreeing to afford me the assistance which I feel it to be my duty to require, I should be induced to avail myself of the opportunity of proceeding myself to Burlington in order to ascertain the extent of the mischief which the unfortunate want of Troops at that period has enabled the Enemy to do us & to make such arrangement as may appear to be called for.

1 Gen. McArthurapos;s raid caused the question of future supplies to be hurriedly attended to.

669

It will be necessary in my opinion that the *smaller vessels* should land the stores they make take on Board at Burlington Beach.

In anticipation of your assent to a proposition which is so immediately connected with the preservation of an important Part of the Province and which must be absolutely evacuated by the Troops unless I am provided with the means of conveying relief to them, I have directed the Deputy Commissary General to be prepared to put on board the ships every Barrel of Provisions which can possibly be spared from the Stores of this Depot.

Under the unfortunate circumstances which have occurred, it would perhaps be advisable to change the Plan relative to the crew of the Niagara; which would only add to the difficulties which we shall, I fear experience in feeding any thing at Turkey Point. At all events, for the present I would advise only a few artificers and shipwrights being sent there —the crew of the ship can be sent up in the winter.

I have the honor to be &c (Signed) Gordon Drummond Lt General

Commodore Sir James L. Yeo Commander in Chief &c. &c. &c.

[C 686-p 170.]

COURT OF INQUIRY

Proceedings of a Court of Enquiry held on the 13th November 1814 at Green Bay, Lake Michigan, pursuant to instructions from Lieut Colonel McDouall, commanding the Island of Michilimackinac and its dependencies.

President

Captain Bulger Captain Royal Newfoundland Regt

Members

Robert Dickson Esq. Agt & Superdnt of the Western Indians

Captain Duncan Graham of the Indian Department

The Court proceeded to investigate the losses of certain individuals of Green Bay, from depradations committed on their property by the Indians.1

1 See appendix.

The following statement of their losses in Cattle was laid before the Court.

Jacques Porlair—(Porlier.)

1 Calf valued at £5

670

I large Hog 6- 5

1 middling do. 3- 2- 6

2 Horses at £10-8-4 each1

1 See Appendix.

20-16- 8

35- 4- 2

Louis Grignon

1 Cow valued at 16-13- 4

1 Colt 6- 5-

2 Bulls at 10-8-4 each 20-16- 8

4 large Hogs at 6-5 each 25-

68-15-

Brisque Yott

1 Draft Ox 20-16- 8

1 Cow 16-13- 4

5 large hogs £6-5 each 31- 5

12 small do 16-8 each 10

78-15

Louis Gravelle—(appears sometimes Graveille)

2 Heifers of 1 year at £5 each 10

3 large Hogs 6 18-15

7 small do 16-8 5-16- 8

34-11- 8

Alexis Garrupy

1 Mare 10- 8- 4

1 Draft Ox 20-16- 8

2 large Hogs at £6- 5- ea 12-10

4 middlings do 3- 2-6 ea 12-10

56-£5

Dominique Brunette

10 middling hogs at 3- 2- 6 ea 31- 5

3 large do 6- 5- ea 18-15

1 cow 16-13- 4

1 bull 10- 8- 4

1 Colt 2½ years 6- 5

1 do 1 year 3-

86- 6- 8

Joseph Jourdain & Paul Decharme—(Ducharme.)

2 Draft Oxen at £20-6-8 ea 41-13- 4

1 Cow 16-13- 4

1 large Hog 6- 5

1 Calf of 5 months 3

2 middling Hogs £3-2-6 ea 6- 5

73-16- 8

671

J. B. Jacobs & B. Chevallier

2 Cows at £16-13-4 ea 33- 6- 8

33- 6- 8

Augustin Bonneterre

1 Cow 16-13- 4

16-13- 4

Jacques Veau

2 Draft Oxen at £20-16-8 ea 41-13-4

1 Horse 10- 8- 4

6 large Hogs at £6-5 ea 37-10

2 middling do 3-2-6 6- 5

95-16- 8

Gabriel Rabbi

2 large Hogs £ 6-5 each 12-10

2 Horses 10-8-4 ea 20-16- 8

33- 6- 8

George Forsin1

1 Forsyth, possibly.

2 Cows £16-13-4 ea 33- 6- 8

1 Draft Ox 20-16- 8

1 large Hog 6- 5

6 middling do £3-2-6 18-15

79- 3- 4

Amable Narimont

2 Bulls £10-8-4 ea 20-16- 8

1 Horse 10- 8- 4

31- 5

Francais L'Aventure

1 Cow 16-13- 4

3 large Hogs £6-5 ea 18-15

Library of Congress

35- 8- 4

Charles Reaume2

2 In Mrs. Kinzie's *Waubun* is mentioned a justice of the peace (1830), of this name.

1 Draft Ox 20-16

1 Young Ox of 2 years 10- 8- 4

2 Cows at £16-13-4 ea 33- 6- 8

1 large Hog 6- 5

4 middling do at £3-2-6 ea 12-10

1 mare 10- 8- 4

1 Colt 3

96-15

J. B. Langevin

2 Oxen of 2 ½ years at £10-8-4 ea 20-16- 8

2 large Hogs 6-5 12-10

33- 6- 8

Joseph Rai (Roy, Rai)

1 Cow 16-13- 4

1 Calf 5

1 middling Hog 3- 2- 6

1 small do 16- 8

23-12- 6

Madame Eccyer1

1 This might have been Madame Jean Ecuyer, or Ecoyer, a resident of Mackinac.

2 Draft Oxen at £20-16-8 ea 104- 3- 4

2 Oxen of 2 & 3 years £10-8-4 20-16- 8

3 Cows £16-13-4 50

1 Horse 10- 8- 4

185- 8- 4

Hypolite Grignan (Grignon)

1 Cow 16- 3- 4

16- 3- 4

Pierre Grignan—(Grignon)

4 Draft Oxen at £20-16- 8 ea 83- 6- 8

3 young do 10-8- 4 ea 31- 5

6 cows 16-13- 4 ea 100

2 calves 3- ea 6

6 small Hogs 16- 8 ea 5

225-11- 8

Augustin Grignan—(Grignon)

1 large Hog 6- 5

6- 5

Louis Petel

1 large Hog 6- 5

3 middling do 9- 7- 6

15-12- 6

J. B. Le Borde

3 Draft Oxen at £20-16- 8 ea 62-10

2 Cows 16-13- 4 ea 33- 6- 8

1 Calf 3

10 large Hogs £6- 5- ea 62-10

2 small do 16- 8 ea 1-13- 4

2 Horses 10- 8- 4 ea 20-16- 8

183-16 8

673

Joseph Ducharme1

1 Joseph Ducharme was a son of Jean Marie Ducharme, a very prominent citizen of Mackinac. Joseph removed to Wisconsin in the early days.

2 Draft Oxen at £20-16- 8 ea 41-13- 4

1 Cow 16-13- 4

4 large Hogs 6- 5 ea 25

9 middling do 3- 2- 6 ea 28- 2- 6

111- 9- 2

Pierre Charon

1 large Hog 6- 5 6- 5

Pierre Ulrique

2 Draft Oxen at £20-16-8 ea 41-13- 4

6 large Hogs 6- 5 ea 37-10

2 small do 16-8 ea 1-13- 4

80-16- 8

Francais St. Roc. (Rocque.)

1 Mare 10- 8- 4

1 Young ox 10- 8- 4

20-16 8

Baptiste Papin

1 Draft Ox 20-16- 8

20-16- 8

Joseph Latout

1 large Hog 6- 5

1 small ox—(hog) 16- 8

7- 1- 8

Francais Roi

1 Cow 16-13- 4

1 Middling Hog 3- 2- 6

19-15- 10

Amable Grignan—(Grignon)

1 Bull of 2 years 10- 8- 4

10- 8- 4

Pierre Cochinneau

2 Draft Oxen at £20-16-8 ea 41-13- 4

2 Cows 16-13-4 ea 33- 6- 8

1 Horse 10- 8- 4

4 large Hogs 6- 5 ea 25

2 Calves 3 ea 6

116- 8- 4

Joseph Bouchie

1 draft Ox 20-16- 8

20-16- 8 85

674

André Lachaise1

1 See appendix.

1 large Hog 6- 5-

2 small do at -16- 8d ea 1-13- 4

7-18- 4

Claude La Frambaise—(Laframboise.)

1 Horse 10- 8- 4

10- 8- 4

Jacob Franks

9 large hogs at £6- 5- ea £ 56- 5-

11 middling do 3- 2-6 34- 7- 6

1 calf 3-

5 horses 10- 8-4 31- 5

4 Draft Oxen 20-16-8 83- 6- 8

2 Cows 16-13-4 16-13- 4

1 Young Ox 10- 8- 4 10- 8- 4

1 Colt 3- 3

254-19- 2

Jean Baptiste Maranda

2 Young oxen £10- 8-4 ea 20-16- 8

1 draft Ox 20-16-8 20-16- 8

1 Large Hog 6- 5 6-5

7 middling do 3- 2 21-17- 6

69-15-10

Total amount of Losses in Cattle £2303-12- 6

Depradations committed by the Indians on the Crops estimated at 2710 dollars2

2 From summary estimated at $2,710—in currency £677-10 it is seen that “in currency” the pound was calculated at four dollars.

677-10-

Total Loss sustained Currency £2981- 2- 6

In submitting the foregoing statement of losses sustained by the Inhabitants of this place, the court beg leave to remark, that they have had no means of ascertaining its correctness but from enquiries made amongst the Inhabitants and others who were supposed to have had opportunities of judging thereof. the result of those enquiries has induced the court to believe the statement correct. The valuation has been affixed by a committee appointed for that purpose by the court and is deemed fair.

signed A. Bulger Captain & President

—“— R. Dickson Agt & Supt. Western Nations

—“— Duncan Graham Capt. Ind. Department.

Green Bay 13th Novr 1814

[M G 11-p 52.]

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COMMODORE YEO TO LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND

(*War—1812*)

His Majesty's Ship St Lawrence at Kingston the 14th Nov. 1814

Sir ,

I have had the honor of your letter of yesterday's date, acquainting me of the destruction by the Enemy of all the Mills to the Westward of the Grand River & requiring the aid of the whole Squadron to relieve the urgent want of the Right Division of the army.

I have at all times (from motives of duty & inclination) been ready & solicitous to cooperate and assist the army, to the utmost of my means & ability, and therefore on the present occasion feel the more distressed, that it is not in my power to comply with your request, without exposing His Majesty's Squadron to most imminent danger such as no officer would be warranted in risking. I have consulted Messrs. Richardsons the Pilots, and others best acquainted with the Lake, who give it as their opinion that it would be the height of imprudence & hazardous in the extreme to take the large Ships on the Lake at this advanced season of the year. That it has ever been the custom to lay up the Vessels on the 15th of this month, and though small vessels have been on the Lake as late as the 1st of December they have narrowly escaped being lost, that the Snow storms generally last twenty-four hours with great violence & that there is no anchorage for large ships between this & York. I do not hesitate in declaring that if the Squadron were to be caught on the Lake in such a storm it is my opinion that their loss would be inevitable. It is also to be considered that were the Squadron at this moment ready to sail, the service could not be accomplished under ten days at least, from its being impossible to approach the Niagara River within Six Miles, Burlington is out of the question & York which is the only place the Squadron can communicate with the ships are obliged to lay at the distance of three miles, & it is only in moderate weather that Boats could land the Provisions. It would therefore be December before the Squadron could return & then could not get into Port if the wind was easterly.

The Montreal is reported by the Builder as being unfit for service without undergoing repairs & I can assure you Sir I am not without my apprehensions [for the safety of the two Brigs on the Lake.

I shall attend to your suggestions as to the crew of the Niagara.

Should you determine on going up, & think proper to accept of the Niagara I will order Capt. Collier to be prepared to receive you on board.

I have the honor to be &c (signed) James Lucas Yeo Commodore Commander in Chief

Lt. Genl. Sir G. Drummond &c. &c. &c.

[C 686-p 173.]

676

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SECRETARY FREER

(*War—1812*)

Kingston 14th Nov. 1814

Sir ,

In consequence of the devastation committed by the Enemy in the neighborhood of Grand River & Turkey Point, I considered it requisite to address the letter of which the accompanying is a copy, to Commodore Sir James Yeo, stating the necessity of his transporting a supply of Provisions for the Right Division from hence before the close of the navigation—A copy also of the Commodore's reply I have the honor to enclose, for the information of His Excellency the Commander of the Forces—

Independent of the want of Provisions which now must be the necessary result of the destruction of the mills in that vicinity, the proposed naval Establishment on Lake Erie must be, I understand, for the present suspended, The Commodore & the Commissioner Sir Robert Hall, having called upon me to state that they have not a sufficiency of Guns or Stores to complete a vessel of the description & class they had intended to build at that place—I have, notwithstanding directed Capt. Payne to proceed thither, with the detachment of Sappers & Miners, and Major Cockburn with the company of Canadian Fencibles for the purpose of executing the military part of the plan, as far as erecting cover & some Defences, for the Troops and Naval Artificers, a small body of whom are to be employed cutting and preparing Timber to be in readiness for Dock Yard use when required—

I have the honor to transmit a letter from Maj. Genl. de Watteville, covering a report of the Enemy's movements towards Turkey Point, which I did not consider of sufficient importance to dispatch by an extra Express—the regular express day from hence being tomorrow—

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most obedt. hum. Servt. Gordon Drummond Lt. General

Capt. Freer Military Secretary

[C 686-p 177.]

677

COL. TALBOT TO LIEUT. COL SMELT

(*War—1812*)

My Dear Colonel ,

I have this instant received intelligence from a man from Long Point that the Enemy left Culvers yesterday morning about 9 o'clock & took the direction of Talbot Road, without completing the work of destruction, that is they have spared Tisdale & Backhouses mills thro' the entreaties of the *American Marshal Long* who had remained at Long Point to deliver over the British Prisoners— The Enemy encamped last night at Browne's ten miles from Culvers. To-morrow, I should presume, you may move off for Burlington. I will have the pleasure of seeing you early to morrow morning.

Yrs faithfully Thomas Talbot

Bunnells Wednesday evening 8 o'clock.

Lt. Col. Smelt &c. &c. &c.

[C 686-p 185.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SECRETARY FREER

(*War—1812*)

Kingston Nov 15th 1814

Sir ,

Since my letter of yesterday, enclosing Maj. Genl. de Wattevilles report of the 9th Instant, I have received Capt. Chamber's letter to Lieut. Col. Smelt, and a note from Col. Talbot, also to that officer, enclosed in the dispatch, of which the accompanying is a copy, from the Maj. General, on the 10th Instant.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient humble servant Gordon Drummond Lt. General

Captain Freer Military Secretary &c. &c. &c.

[C 686-p 184.]

678

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SECRETARY FREER

(*War—1812*)

Kingston Nov. 17th 1814

Sir ,

Inclosed is the copy of a Report from Capt Chambers, Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General, transmitted to me by Maj. Genl. de Watteville.

The Major General, upon faith of the information of the Enemy's retreat, had set out for Chippawa, but I doubt, not, has by this time returned to Ancaster in consequence of intelligence which will have overtaken him on the road, that a body of the Enemy had crossed the River Thames at Delaware & are advancing towards Oxford—This Intelligence was brought by a Huron Indian; but how far it is to be relied on is yet to be known.

Five companies of the 37th Regt. with two Six Pounders complete, had marched for Turkey Point,

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient humble servant Gordon Drummond Lt. General.

Captain Freer M. Secretary &c. &c. &c.

[C 686-p 188.]

LIEUT. COL. JAMES TO COLONEL HARVEY

(*War—1812*)

Burlington 21st November 1814

Sir

I do myself the honor to inform you that Captain Wm. Caldwell arrived here yesterday bringing with him a man named “Bazely from Oxford where he took him prisoner and found in his pocket copy of the enclosed order Issued by General McArthur and signed by the Ac Q Mr General of the American force—The man is now in the Guard Room here which has been allotted for Civil Prisoners.

Captain Caldwell went as far as Delaware where he learned that the Enemy had recrossed to Detroit, having embarked at the extremity of the Thames1 —Their number did not exceed 1000; that they advanced upon

1 See appendix.

679 Oxford quietly but with rapidity leaving their tired horses and taking fresh ones wherever they found them.—Captain Caldwell states the Prisoner “Bazley to have given information to the enemy, and the cause of burning the houses of several Loyal subjects in the vicinity of Oxford.—He adds his belief that the Enemy only destroyed & carried off 250 horses 200 sheep 100 oxen & one hundred Hogs.1 Three mounted British subjects with six Indians have gone as far as Detroit from which place they may be expected in the course of four days.—I beg leave to acquaint you that Captain Caldwell has stated a great inconvenience which has constantly attended his reconnoitring parties, particularly in the Latter ones by having been obliged to pay for the hire of Horses & food for his party.—He requested me to state how advantageous it wd be to be permitted to press horses or in both instances to be allowed payment.

1 Considering the extent of country traversed and its fair state of cultivation, McArthur was moderate in his exactions.

I forward a letter from Major Tilt and fear the men will be very badly off for stores which can with great case be sent from York before the conveyance by water closes if an order to that effect is speedly forwarded.

I was misinformed when I stated in a former letter that *three* mills remained, which information I obtained from Captain Chambers.

I have great pleasure to Report on the Authority of Col. Caldwell who has had a man in from beyond Delaware that there is not an open American enemy in the British Possessions & which information I am confident may be relied on.

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedt humble servt W. James Lt Col

Burlington 22d November 1814 Colonel Harvey Ad General &c

[C 687-p 190.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston November 24th 1814.

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's two letters of the 18th Instant,—

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As soon as I have received Colonel Talbot's communication relative to the murder of Captain Francis, of the Militia, I will lose no time in transmitting the statement to Your Excellency.

I have forwarded a copy of that, directing the retaliatory measures to be pursued against the Enemy, to Major Genl Stovin, Commanding the Right Division.—

By the last accounts from Burlington it would appear, that the Enemy have altogether retired to Detroit; and Major Genl De Watteville had returned to Chippawa.

The Niagara is now alongside the Princess Charlotte, taking in the Guns, anchor, and stores, for the vessel to be built at Penetengueshene.—

The Charwell will proceed with a small supply of provisions, and stores, to the Head of the Lake.—The Star unluckily Sprung her Masts in a Gale, and cannot venture upon the Lake again this season.—This is an extremely unfortunate circumstance, as there are still many men of the 41st 100th and 103d Regiment, to be brought down.

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellencys Most obedt humble servt Gordon Drummond Lt General

His Excellency Sir George Prevost, Bt &. &.

[C 686-p 199.]

COLONEL TALBOT TO COLONEL HARVEY

(*War—1812*)

Major Salmon's 7th December 1814

My Dear Sir

I hasten to communicate to you the following information, which I have this day received from three respectable Farmers of neighbourhood of Amherstburg, who have found it necessary to desert their homes from an apprehension of being taken up by the Enemy and sent to Chillicothe. They left the new settlement, (12 miles this side of Amherstburg) the 26th of last month—The Troops under General McArthur, had it was understood, returned to Kentuckey, leaving 600 men. Chiefly Militia of Kentuckey, and Ohio, who were drafted, for six months service. This force is distributed to the 681 different forts on the Detroit, but much the largest proportion occupies the new Fort, that the Enemy have erected, at Amherstburg, where every exertion is used to render it strong. The Troops have been on very short allowance of provisions, some weeks without bread and at the time of my informers leaving that part of the Country, the Enemy had strong detachments out, collecting by force, the provisions in the different settlements within the limits, described in Col: Miller's Proclamation, which I enclose, it having been taken down from the place of its exhibition by one of the party now arrived. They further state, that it was current at Detroit, that the officer commanding had reported to the Government of the United States, that no supplies of provisions would be required from that country as the part of Canada under his control, could furnish a sufficiency for the troops occupying Detroit and the Western Frontier of Canada. The confidential person, that I mentioned in my last letter to you, as having sent to the westward, I do not expect to return for a fortnight, he will, I am convinced, bring an accurate report of the state of things in that direction, but I fear that they will be as unfavourable as the present.

There is some appearance of winters setting in, I hope it may be the case, which will enable me to proceed for Montreal.

I am Dear Sir Most faithfully Yours Thomas Talbot

To Colonel Harvey & & &

[C 686-p 222.]

LIEUT. COL. JAMES TO COLONEL HARVEY

(*War—1812*)

Burlington 11th December 1814

I have been honored by your letter of the 29th ulto: and as the “recommendation of a Staff Adjutant for this Post does not meet with” the approbation of Lieut General Drummond, it will afford me great pleasure if by a continuance of my exertion the several duties are discharged to his satisfaction.

A very well known Loyal subject a “Mr John Stockwell who lives fourteen miles on this side Malden came here yesterday and informed me that he left home on the 27th ult: at which period the enemy were very busily 86 682 employed in throwing up a work and stockading a small point near Malden” under the full impression that the English would pay them a visit very soon. He states that the enemy at present are very few at Malden and not more than 200 men at Detroit, and those barely coming under the denomination of soldiers—Every man who could be relied on has been sent to the southward's, Americans as well as Indians, the former are actively employed in threshing and carrying off all the Corn in that part of Mr. Stockwell's neighbourhood, and occasionally driving away the Cattle—He decidedly states that Genl MacArthurs force in the first instance—and before they crossed the Thames to amount to nine hundred men, but that six hundred only entered this Country, the other three having deserted in two days.

Mr. Stockwell1 requests it to be made known to General Drummond his entire knowledge of the Country and confidence, that he can at any time conduct a considerable Force unperceived to the Enemy's works. He has also requested I would state the serious injury's arising from the information given to the Enemy by a number of men (Americans) settled near to him and who are their Agents for Corn and Cattle, and expresses an

earnest desire that they may be removed which he himself is ready to do with a small party of Indians only.

1 Mr. John Stockwell, loyal subject, thirsts to distinguish himself and will undertake to play havoc with his neighbor settlers if allowed to summon a few Indians.

I have the Honor to be Sir Your most obedient humble servant W. James Lt. Col:

Lt Col. Harvey &c &c

[C 686-p 226.]

PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD OF CLAIMS

North West

Proceedings Of A Board Of Claims held at Montreal by order of His Excellency the Commr of the Forces 14th December 1814.

Members

M. General de Rottenburg

M. Genl. Baynes

M. Genl. Sir S. Beckwith

Colonel Murray

Lieut Colonel Morrison

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The Board read the Military Secretary's Letter dated 11th December called upon the North West Company for the attendance of a Portion of that Firm, able to give information

respecting the Subjects under investigation and to produce Documents to establish the Same.

Norman Mac Leod Esqr and Lt. Mac Kenzie Esqr of the North West Company attended with documents—Also Deputy Asst Comy. Genl. Gilmore the Chief of that Department with the Right Division.

The Board proceeded to investigate the Claim No 1 for the estimated valuation of the Schooner Nancy having been destroyed by order of her Commander Lieut Worsely of the Royal Navy at the River Nation Saakie on Lake Huron, to prevent her falling into the hands of the Enemy at the time in Government Employ—Currency £2,200.

The Board recommended the Same.

The Board having investigated the Claim No. 2. to the estimated valuation of the new Schooner Mink of about 45 Tons measurement having been brought down the Fall St. Mary by order of Government and was captured on Lake Huron with a valuable cargo by the Enemy's Squadron Currency £1,000.

The Board recommend the same.

The Board having investigated Claim No 3. To the estimate valuation of the Schooner Perseverance of about 85 Tons measurement, having been placed at the disposal of Government & was left at the head of the Falls of St. Mary for said purpose—was destroyed by the Detachment under the command of Major Holmes at said place.—Currency £2,500—

I appears to the Board that the Schooner Perseverance was brought to the Falls of St. Mary's by the North West Company for the express purpose of placing her at the disposal of Government, and that she was then destroyed by an American Force under Major Holmes and further that her being so brought from Lake Superior to the Falls of St. Mary

was the immediate cause of her loss, but no proof being adduced of Government having required or accepted of her service, the Board do not consider this claim founded on any pretension of right to remuneration but viewing this transaction as an instance of zealous exertion on the part of the North West Company to promote the service of Government and believing that the offer of the Perseverance would have been gladly accepted of, had it been tendered in time, beg to recommend this claim to favorable consideration.

With respect to the estimate value of the three above named Schooners, The Board have no means of ascertaining their just value; but it is aware that they are very much enhanced by the extreme difficulties attending the construction of vessels on those Lakes.

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The Board proceeded to the investigation of the Claim No. 4 being for Transport Service performed by the Nancy in 1813 and 1814 on Lake Erie and Lake Huron amounting to £1243 ,, 5 ,, 0 & finding the same to be supported by due authorities and vouchers recommend the same

(Signed) Francis De Rottenburg M. General President

Approved that the amount of the following Claims which have been recommended by the Board be paid to the Agents of the North West Company, vizt

No. 1 Schooner Nancy £2,200 0 0

“ 2 “ Mink 1,000 0 0

“ 4 Service of the Schooner Nancy 1,243 5 0

Currency £4,443 5 0

The Case of the Schooner Perseverance (Claim No. 3) will be submitted for the consideration and decision of His Majesty's Government.

(Signed) George Prevost Commander of the Forces.

[C 363-p 87.]

LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

District Head Quarters Falls of Niagara 24th December 1814

Sir

Your Excellency's letters of the 15th and 16th brought by Captain Rainsford 104th reached me last night—to that which enclosed Private letters you did me the honor to address to me in answer to mine of the 17th ultimo, I shall have the honor of returning a separate reply,—In proceeding to notice the Contents of the other two I am to observe that no communication has been received from the Adjutant General relative to the duties of an Assistant Provost, I shall defer the appointment which Your Excellency is pleased to authorize me to make for the Right Division until I have received the Communication alluded to.

The observations Contained in the Concluding paragraph of the letter of the 15th (in Your Excellency's own hand writing) embrace a wide field—As however any attempt at the realization of the proposed plan must depend 685 upon a Contingency which has not yet happened, vizt: the fall of Fort Erie, it may be sufficient for the present to observe that with regard to Amherstburg the difficulty probably consists more in the deficiency of provisions and Transport than of any other means—the same difficulty must be equally applicable to every other operation in this Country as it prevents the collection at any point, of an adequate force for any object- These difficulties we must continue to experience until our Squadron appears superior on the Lake and even then the transport which

Commodore Sir James Yeo may think it prudent to afford the Departments will I fear prove very inadequate to the relief of all the wants of this Division.—1

1 See appendix.

I quite agree with Your Excellency that Upper Canada, particularly when we have the command of Lake Ontario, will offer the best theatre for our operations against the Enemy.—Sacketts Harbour is the object on which our eyes should be steadily fixed; but it is no longer in that state which admits of any other mode of attack than that of the most regular and powerful description.—In inviting my support to be given to Major General Kempt I could have wished that Your Excellency had been more explicit as to the nature of the support which may be expected of me.—the personal esteem which I entertain for Major General Kempt is not wanting to stimulate the zealous desire which I trust I have always felt to promote not only such an enterprize as that of which the preparations have been committed to him, but every enterprize which has for its object the annoyance of the Enemy—I have been in correspondence with Major General Kempt, and am fully prepared to receive any further communication on the subject with which Your Excellency may favor me.—With regard to Presquille, any enterprize against that place is at present wholly impracticable—I feel a strong conviction however (and have communicated that impression to Sir James Yeo) that Captain Dobbs, if 200 more seamen with five or six proper Boats were placed at his disposal, would recover the naval ascendency on Lake Erie (by attacking the Enemy's two Brigs at anchor off Fort Erie) with as much case and as much certainty of success as he effected the capture of the two schooners

I have the honor to be Sir Your Excellencys most obedient humble servt Gordon Drummond Lt General

His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bart &. &. &.

[C 685-p 257.]

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LIEUT. GEN. DRUMMOND TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Kingston 27th Decr 1814

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith for Your Excellency's Information a letter addressed to Lt. Col Harvey by Lieut Col. Talbot covering a proclamation of Col. Miller of the 17th United States Regiment, commanding at Detroit; as also a letter from Lt. Col. James, commanding at Burlington affording some information with regard to the Enemy to the Westward, apparently to be relied on.

I avail myself of the same opportunity to transmit to Your Excellency an extract of a letter this instant received from Col. Grant at Prescott relative to the proceedings of the Enemy at Sackett's Harbour.

I have the honor to be Your Excellencys very obdt humble Servt Gordon Drummond Lt General

His Excellency Sir George Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c

[C 686-p 231.]

EARL BATHURST TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

(*War—1812*)

Extract from a Dispatch of Earl Bathurst to Lt. General Sir George Prevost Bart—dated Downing Street 27th December 1814.

“I have also to draw your attention to the two articles1 which relate to the Indian Nations or Tribes, that may be at war with either of the two contracting parties, at the time when the Treaty shall be ratified.

1 See appendix.

You will assure the friendly Indian Nations, that Great Britain would not have consented to make peace with the United States of America, unless those nations or tribes which had taken part with us, had been included in the Pacification. You will use your utmost endeavours to enduce them to conclude a peace with the United States on the terms secured to them by the Treaty, as we cou'd not be justified, in offering them further assistance, if they should persist in Hostilities.

[M. G. 9-p 191]

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EARL BATHURST TO SIR GEORGE PREVOST

War Department London 27th December 1814

Sir ,

With reference to the subject of my dispatches bearing this date, I beg to draw your further attention to the following consideration.

It is very desirable that any Treaty of Peace which we may conclude, with Indian Nations or Tribes, actually at war with us, should be expressed in terms which denote the Independence of the Nation or Tribe with which we are treating, and you will intimate to the friendly Nations that in their Treaties with the United States of America, they ought to adhere as much as possible to the terms used in their former treaties with the United

States—describing themselves as “Nations” not “Tribes” wherein it had been formerly the practice so to designate themselves.1

1 See appendix.

I have &c (Signed) Bathurst

Lieut General Sir George Prevost Bart &c. &c. &c.

[M. G. 9-p 190.]

A PROCLAMATION1

Whereas it is necessary from the disturbed state of the Country, that Martial Law should be declared. I do by virtue of the power and authority vested in me, hereby proclaim Martial Law to be in force throughout the Country, from the date hereof—of which all officers Civil and military, and all persons whatsoever are to take notice and govern themselves accordingly. Given under my hand in Fort Mc Kay, Prairie du Chien the 31st Decr.

1814 (signed)

A Bulger , Captain Commanding on the Mississippi.

[M. G. 14-p 46.]

APPENDIX 87.

Volume XV Second Edition.—Joseph Greusel.

The numbers in the margin indicate the pages to which the notes refer.

2. John Graves Simcoe, 1752–1806, British commander in the American Revolution; later, colonial governor in Upper Canada, including Michigan, 1792–96.

2. Gen. Anthony Wayne, 1745–1796; Kenny deserted Wayne's army, October 24, 1794, after the battle of Fallen Timbers, August 20, 1794.

3. Gen. Josiah Harmar, defeated in the Indian country, near present Fort Wayne, October 22, 1790. The reference is to the route of Harmar into the Indian country, his expedition having made Cincinnati its point of departure.

4. Little Turtle (Michikinikwa) was a Miami chief. He commanded the Indians who defeated Gen. Harmar in 1790 and Gen. St. Clair in 1791. He was an Indian warrior of courage and ability, who commanded in 1791 at the desperate battle at the Miami village, near the head of the River Wabash, where Fort Recovery was afterwards (1793) built. The American force, about 1,450 men, was under command of Gen. Arthur St. Clair. He was unfamiliar with the country and ignorant of his position; furthermore was too ill to mount his horse without assistance. Accordingly he encamped on the night of November 3, 1791, and took little precaution against surprise, unaware of the foe in his vicinity. During the night he was surrounded by 1,000 Indians and before dawn of November 4th, they made their onslaught on the slumbering. The battle raged for several hours with the result that 894 of St. Clair's men were slaughtered. The rest of the army fled demoralized to Fort Jefferson and Cincinnati. It was one of the most severe and bloody defeats the Americans ever experienced from the Indians, only exceeded perhaps by the annihilation of Gen. Custer's command on the Big Horn river almost one hundred years later. On August 20, 1794, Little Turtle, assisted by Blue Jacket, commanded the confederated Indians at the battle of Fallen Timbers, where their forces were completely broken under the vigorous generalship of Wayne. After that he signed the treaty of Greenville in 1795 and was quiet until the war of 1812 broke out. In 1797, while on a visit to President Washington in Philadelphia, he

received from Kosciusko a present of a brace of beautiful pistols. Born in 1752, died in 1812.

6. Richard England, commanding British forces at Detroit, 1793–96; gave up pursuant to treaty, the fort at Detroit, and hauled down the British flag on the arrival of a company from Wayne's army under Capt. Moses Porter, July 11, 1796. The American flag then was hoisted for the first time in the Michigan territory. When Quaker commissioners were at Detroit, in June and July, 1793, to bring about a better understanding with the Indian tribes, they were quite captivated with the kindly manners of Col. England; describing him as “a cheerful, open-countenanced, masculine soldier, who received us like a gentleman and kindly offered civilities to us.” On first coming to Detroit he was lieutenant colonel of the 24th regiment of the line; later was promoted to be colonel of the 25th. He was tall and very corpulent. The story goes that before coming to America, England was taking part in some military exercises in London. The attention of Sheridan, the dramatist and wit, was attracted to the stout old officer dismounting from his horse. Inquiring the name, Sheridan, who was in the *entourage* of the Prince of Wales, remarked: “Col. England! hey? You should have said Great Britain, by jove!”

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7. James Wilkinson, 1757–1825. American general and politician; served in the Revolutionary war in Canada and at Saratoga; in Indian wars under Wayne. Implicated in Burr's conspiracy; acquitted by court martial. Governor of Louisiana, 1805–6. Not conspicuous for military qualities, his failures being grievous. His memoirs explanatory of his lack of success published in three volumes.

9. Gen. Arthur St. Clair, U. S. Army, 1734–1818. Took part in the French and Indian wars from Louisburg to Quebec; served through the Revolution. Defeated by Indians under Little Turtle, 1791, near Miami villages.

9. Sir Guy Carleton, celebrated English general, created Baron Dorchester, 1786. Governor Canada, 1786–92, when he resigned.

10. John Jay, 1745–1829, American statesman and jurist; contributor to the “Federalist;” first chief justice of the U. S. Jay's treaty made September, 1794, stipulated that all the British western posts within the territory belonging to the U. S. should be surrendered by June 1, 1796. In accordance with that treaty Detroit passed to the Americans July 11, 1796. This letter written four years later, has an undertone of regret for the surrender of the territory which those British posts dominated.

11. The elevated river bank in Springwells lying between the present Junction avenue and Fort Wayne. The U. S. government about 1844 began the construction of Fort Wayne. It stands on ground less elevated than the site referred to. The bank has, by reason of city improvements, disappeared.

12. The reference is to the island of St. Joseph at the head of Lake Huron and mouth of the St. Mary's river. The original Fort St. Joseph, near Niles, in the lower peninsula, is described by Hon. Daniel McCoy in Vol. XXXVI, this series.

13. Thomas Douglas, Earl of Selkirk. Purchased lands to colonize from the River Thames to River St. Clair, Kent county, Canada. Bought from Hudson Bay Company the Red River country, now known as Manitoba, and in 1811 brought over Scotch colonists as settlers. Arrested in Detroit, 1818, for running off to Canada one James Grant. Discharged, arrest having been made on a Sunday. Previous to the year 1800 he established a Scotch colony near Wallaceburg, Lake St. Clair region.

14. At the date of this letter, which gives an accurate account of the geographical features and advantages of the region of the great lakes and of Michigan—steam navigation had not begun. The sail vessels on the lake were of small tonnage and light draft.

14. Robert Prescott, general and governor, was born 1725, and died in 1816. He entered the military service in 1755; promoted general in 1798. He served under Wolfe and Amherst in the Revolution. He was Governor of Canada for three years succeeding Lord Dorchester.

17. Joseph Brant (Brandt), a Mohawk chief in the Revolutionary war, who with most of the Six Nations of New York, were allied with the British. Hence, being expatriated, were given lands in the present province of Ontario. Brant, Indian name Thayendanegea, was well educated and was made much of on his visit to England. His sister was married to Sir William Johnson. Brant was one of the strong and influential American Indians. Born, 1742; died, 1807.

23. Whoever the author of this statement to the Duke of Kent and Gen. Hunter may be, it is evident that he was a person of strong mentality, fine powers of observation, accuracy of statement and unimpeachable judgment. His observations possessed much real value to the British government, though it is doubtful if they were appreciated by the authorities in England. It is to be regretted that the author's name remains unknown.

24. Sir George Prevost, born in New York, 1767, son of a British general in the Revolutionary war; died, 1816. Became commander-in-chief in British North America in 1811; defeated by the Americans at Plattsburg, 1814. Gen. Alexander Macomb, born in Detroit, commanded the American land forces; Commondore McDonough the naval, at that battle.

24. Blue Jacket, chief of the tribe of Hurons, settled at Monguagon on the Detroit river. He commanded the Chaouenous (Shawnees) of the Huron nations as an ally of the English, and was second in command to Little Turtle at the terrible defeat and slaughter of St. Clair's army at the head of the Wabash, near Fort Recovery, November 4, 1791. Blue Jacket appears to have been at 693 Point Pleasant on the Ohio river below Pittsburg, in October, 1774. This was before the Revolution and was an attack on the settlers. In this

battle among the Americans killed were Cols. Lewis and Field. Blue Jacket was also in the field against Wayne, 1794, where he met his match and signed the treaty of Greenville. In 1808 the American government allowed his claim to an eighty-acre tract of land at Monguagon. He again went on the warpath in 1812 against the Americans, and was present at the massacre at Frenchtown, or River Raisin, January 23, 1813. *Memorial des Familles Casgrain, Baby et Perrault* , by Phillippe Baby Casgrain, p. 100, says his mother had heard it alleged that a natural daughter of Duperon Baby by an Indian mother became the wife of Blue Jacket. Family tradition has the story of a visit to the family at Sandwich in 1809 of Blue Jacket's wife. Jacob Lindley, the Quaker, saw Blue Jacket at Detroit, July 9, 1793. He calls him a Delaware, and says: “He was dressed in scarlet, with gold tassels and a laced hat.” Blue Jacket, at the time, was on his way to Montreal and made a call in full uniform on Col. England, the British commandant at Detroit.

26. Hector McLean, lieutenant 41st regiment, then at Amherstburg; captain Royal Canadian volunteers and subsequently brigade major on Gen. Proctor's staff in 1812; as such took part in the battle and massacre of the River Raisin (Frenchtown), January 22, 1813. Sent by Proctor as bearer of dispatches with report of the battle to Maj. Gen. Sheaffe, then commanding in Canada, Niagara district.

34. Col. Elijah Brush, a lawyer and distinguished citizen of Detroit; in the army in 1812; an important official in territorial days, and for a time treasurer of Michigan territory; secretary to Gov. Lewis Cass and prominent in public affairs. The Brush farm, now in the heart of the city, perpetuates his name.

40. John Johnston, a pioneer settler at Sault Ste. Marie, and fur trader in the Lake Superior country. He married an Indian wife; one of his daughters became the wife of Henry R. Schoolcraft. The Johnston family is of great respectability, and was always held in consideration by the Indians, and is so yet by the descendants of the original Chippewa tribe now living at the Sault. John Johnston was an original member of the Michigan Historical Society. The first meeting of the society was held in 1828, July 3, at

the Mansion House, Detroit, where he took part in the proceedings. Members of his family have contributed valuable papers to the collections of the society. Many of our published volumes bear testimony to their knowledge and literary taste. See Vols. XXXII and XXXVI for sketches of his life.

41. June 21, 1807, the Chesapeake, an American warship, of Commodore,Barron's fleet, was overhauled just outside of Chesapeake bay by the Leopard, Captain Humphreys, a British frigate, with a demand for the delivery of three Americans, one a negro, alleged to be deserters from the British navy. Commodore Barron refused to allow his crew to be mustered by the officers of the Leopard. The latter, at pistol shot distance, fired several broadsides into the Chesapeake, which ship was not in fighting trim and unable to fire back. Striking her colors, the Chesapeake was then boarded and the three American sailors and one other—a British subject, were made prisoners. Capt. Humphreys declined to make a prize of the Chesapeake. The affair created immense excitement throughout the country. Canning, the British premier, disavowed the act. The British admiral Berkeley was recalled and Capt. Humphreys was never again thereafter assigned to perform services afloat. The affair was a conspicuous incident of similar assertions of the right claimed by Great Britain to “search and seize” American vessels which brought about the war of 1812.

48. John Askin. Jr., of the Indian department. When Gen. Wayne was negotiating the treaty of Greenville, 1795, Askin appeared at the council. He said he had been urged by certain chiefs of the Chippewa and Ottawa nations to accompany them as private adviser and interpreter. Wayne suspected that Askin's real mission was one of obstruction. The policy of the British officers was to prevent a treaty between the Americans and the Indians in this region. By intercepting Askin's correspondence Wayne established conclusive proof of the real purpose of the “interpreter.” The letters were read to Askin by Wayne. The result was that Askin was placed under guard at Fort Jefferson and kept in confinement eleven days. Wayne then gave him a pass and the baffled Askin returned to Detroit. Regarding that place safe he wrote out a 694 report August 19, 1795, to Col. R. England, commanding the British forces at Detroit, wherein he related his observations and told as

much of the treaty as he had been able to gather. The treaty was duly concluded by Gen. Wayne and in less than a year from its signing Col. England hauled down the British flag and departed with his garrison from Detroit. Askin was long in the British service as Indian agent and store-keeper; a shrewd, influential man, prominent in his time. Home was at Sandwich, but was stationed several years at Mackinac. His father acquired wealth as a merchant in Detroit. One of his daughters, sister to John Askin, Jr., married Col. Elijah Brush. The elder Askin lived at Detroit. A son of John Askin, Jr., named John B., lieutenant in the Canadian militia; served under Proctor in 1813 as commissary's clerk.

50. Sir Isaac Brock, 1769–1812. A capable British major general. Captured Hull's army at Detroit, August 16, 1812. Knighted for this exploit. Killed in battle at Queenstown, October 13, 1812.

50. Robert Nichol, lieutenant colonel of militia; recommended for the King's medal for conduct at capture of Detroit. His knowledge of the Erie-Huron region was very complete.

54. Lieut. Col. R. H. Bruyeres, an officer of the Royal Engineers, attached to the general staff of the army. He was employed in engineering and construction work and came to know Canada and the material supplies in it very well. The documents in this volume were transcribed from the archives in Ottawa by copyists by the courteous permission of the Dominion government. Explanation of the lined and blank spaces in Bruyeres' letter is not given; perhaps these portions were undecipherable.

58. Lt. Col. Thomas Bligh St. George was recommended for an honorary medal for conduct at the capture of Detroit, in which he took an active part the following year. He was made inspecting field officer and colonel by the Prince Regent in 1813.

60. Jeffrey Amherst was born in Kent, England, in 1717. At the age of fourteen he was aide de camp to the Duke of Cumberland. He emigrated to America, having been promoted major general. He was present at the seige of Louisburg; made commander-in-chief; participated in the seige of Montreal which surrendered to him September 8, 1760.

He had his headquarters in New York while acting as commander-in-chief until 1762. He was nominally the governor of Virginia, the office being filled by Lieutenant Governor Farquier. Returning to England he was granted a title of nobility in 1763, and commanded the English army; promoted field marshal; died in 1797.

63. Col. Matthew Elliott came to Detroit as a fugitive from Pittsburg during the Revolutionary war. After the arrival of Gen. Wayne he removed to Amherstburg. He was British superintendent of the Indians and commanded a body of them at Miami Rapids, October and November, 1812, and was engaged in other battles. He was accused of inciting massacre. Gen. Harrison reports him as ransoming three captives and reprimanding an Indian chief. A suit regarding the restoration of his runaway slaves engrossed the attention of the court at Detroit for some time. His conduct during the war made him very unpopular.

66. Captain Alexander Grant, although only a lieutenant in the 77th infantry, commanded the fleet upon Lake Champlain in 1759. Placed in command of the lake navy in 1763, he served until 1812, when he ranked as commodore. In Vol. XX of this series, page 256, an account is given of his earlier career. He died at Grosse Pointe, near Detroit, in 1815.

66. Major Gen. William Henry Harrison was the ninth president of the United States, and territorial governor of Michigan from 1800 to 1805. and victorious at the battle of Tippecanoe, 1811. He re occupied Detroit, September 29. 1813, and also defeated Gen. Proctor at the battle of the Thames.

67. The Winnebagoes or Puants, are described in the Journal of Peter Pond, published in Vol. XVIII of the Wisconsin Historical Collections, as speaking an uncouth language unknown to the other tribes and having no intercourse with other Indians. Fighting among themselves and at war with their neighbors, they were driven east and found a home near the settlement of the Foxes. They were considered dishonest and unreliable.

67. This Kickapoo Indian is giving his version of the battle of Tippecanoe, fought November 7, 1811, where Gen. Harrison defeated a force of 1,000 warriors 695 led by Whitehorn, Stone Eater and Winnemac. The Prophet did not fight but chanted incantations from a hill nearby.

73. Major Fuller here mentioned and characterized as unfit on the next page, is the Capt. Fuller of page 30, who asked to be reimbursed for passage money on trip to Lake Erie in 1860. See page 30.

82. J. B. Glegg, captain, major, lieutenant colonel of the 49th regiment. Aid de camp to Major General Brock, and after the latter's death, with Gen. Sheaffe. Assistant adjutant general and head of the staff at the capture of Detroit. Given a medal and promotion; acted as brigade major at the battle of the Raisin.

84. Noah Freer, an important character at British army headquarters; military secretary to Sir George Prevost, the commander-in-chief; also prize agent to distribute value of property taken at capture of Mackinac, July 17, 1812, among volunteers and regular troops. Many valuable papers from his collection are reproduced in this volume. His correspondence testifies to his ability and to his extraordinary activity.

86. The intention to engage all the Indians in the northwest as allies appears to have been decided upon long before the expected war of 1812 broke out; the possession of Detroit was indispensable to carry out this policy. In his own words: “If we effect this object (capture of Detroit) no reliance ought to be placed on the Indians.”

87. Robert Banks Jenkinson, second earl of Liverpool, 1770–1828. At date of this letter colonial minister; became premier June, 1812, remaining in office until 1827. Noted English politician; prime mover in sending Napoleon to St. Helena, and in the readjustment of French affairs, 1815–1818.

89. Tecumseh, the great war chief of the Shawnees, or Shawnoes as spelled in this letter, who delivered this speech, was born near Springfield, Ohio, 1768; he was killed in the battle of the Thames, 80 miles northeast of Windsor, Canada, October 5, 1813. He was an important ally of the British in the war of 1812. He was noted for valor, eloquence and efforts to unite the western Indians. Not wholly savage, he occasionally showed human traits and restrained his confederates. At the battle of Fort Meigs, May 5, 1813, he saved a number of American prisoners, among whom was Gen. Leslie Coombs of Kentucky, at that time a boy captain under Col. Dudley. Tecumseh died a brigadier general in the British service.

92. François Bouthillier was a partner of Joseph Rolette and an associate judge of Crawford county. He was interested in the lead mines in 1819; he died at Fever river, now Galena, III., about 1834.

93. William Hull, an American general, 1753–1825. Served through the Revolutionary war. First governor of Michigan territory—1805–11. Surrendered Detroit to the British, 1812. Court martialed therefor at Albany, January 3, 1814, and sentenced to be shot. Sentence was remitted and Hull was pardoned by President Madison. There will be found much about Hull in the various volumes of the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society collections.

95. Edward Couche, deputy commissary general. The “means” was a local currency to pay 4,000 militia ordered out by Brock. He needed £1,500 and couldn't get the funds. Hence we find, December 12, 1813, Col. Nichol writing to Talbot, remarking: “Couche should be hanged.” He made good in many other ways later on.

96. Should read Springwells. A township adjoining Detroit on the west, settled about the same time as Detroit, and the scene of many historical events connected with the city and the state. Continuous annexations have mostly absorbed its territory into the city. In 1812 the present Wayne street formed the eastern boundary o+f Springwells.

98. “Moy” was the name given by Angus McIntosh to his large dwelling situated on the Canadian shore of the Detroit river opposite the lower end of Belle Isle. The Nancy was wind bound in this upper reach of the river.

103. Robert Dickson, a British trader connected with the Northwest Fur co. in the country from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi. Exerted himself to attach the Indians to the British cause; furnished them supplies, made them presents. January 1, 1813, commissioned by Sir George Prevost as “agent for the Indians of the Western Nations” with extensive powers to enlist the Indian support in that country during the war. Called Capt. Dickson. *Cf* . p. 180 for an abstract of his work.

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109. Colonel Edward Baynes, whose official title was “adjutant general to the forces in British North America.” As such he was principal officer on the staff of Sir George Prevost, the commander-in-chief, and always with him at headquarters. As colonel of the Glengarry light infantry, composed of Scotchmen recruited in Canada, his active service in the field was mainly confined to the attack on Sackett's Harbor, May 29, 1813. His failure to take the place was due to the timidity of Sir George Prevost, who was with the expedition on Sir James Yeo's flag ship, the Wolfe, 24 guns. As it was the assault was nearly successful. Its lack of complete results was the subject of much dissatisfaction in British army circles.

114. As the force enumerated by Askin on the preceding pages foots up 593 of whom 383 were Indians, and exclusive of the Royal Veteran battalion, Capt. Roberts' own command, not a full company—it will be seen that Lieut. Hanks was outnumbered ten to one.

120. Proctor was a British general, 1765–1859. Colonel at this date, but a major general August, 1813. He was with Brock at the capture of Detroit, August 16, 1812; made commandant of the city. Defeated the Americans under Winchester at the River Raisin, January, 1813; repulsed by Harrison at Fort Meigs, May 5, 1813, and later by Croghan at Upper Sandusky; his army crushed by Harrison at the battle of the Thames, October

5, 1813. Procter fled; a court martial afterwards tried him; he was suspended from rank and pay. He exercised little restraint over Indian allies, and his-character suffers from the cruelties inflicted by them on captured prisoners massacred on the field and on the retreat. As to the name “Proctor or Procter” most works of reference, histories, etc., make it Proctor. Mr. Burton's belief that it should read “Procter” is supported by the publications of the Lundy's Lane Historical Society containing his signature “Procter.” For sketch of Gen. Procter see biography by Mr. Burton at the beginning of this volume.

120. Of the remarkable personages whose names appear in this volume, without much mention except by name—this Colonel Talbot was one of the most remarkable. At the time Col. Baby stopped to consult with Talbot the latter was 41 years old. He came to Canada in 1790, returning to Europe again in 1797 to enter upon campaigns against the French in Holland and other fields. Coming back to Canada in 1801 on leave, he retired from the army on the disbandment of part of his regiment and permanently settled in what is now Elgin country. He was a scion of the Talbot family, famous in English history, a family whose fighting traits are outlined in Shakespeare's King Henry VI. This Colonel Thomas Talbot was born at Malahide Castle, Ireland, in 1771. He was given a commission in the army by royal favor, at the age of eleven years. The commission was intended to be helpful toward the education of the youth, for he was retired presently on half pay. Holding his military title he was appointed, when sixteen years old, aide-de-camp to the Marquis of Buckingham, lord lieutenant of Ireland. His fellow aide-de-camp was Arthur Wellesley, later Duke of Wellington. Great were the advantages to Tom Talbot of this position, which he held during Buckingham's administration at Dublin. He joined the 24th regiment at Quebec in 1790, where Lieutenant Governor Simcoe next year appointed Talbot his private and confidential secretary. In 1793 he was made a captain in the 85th Foot; major in 1794, and lieutenant colonel of the 5th Foot in 1796. Then, as above said, he joined his regiment and went into the active campaigns against the French in 1797. On returning to Canada he was granted 1,200 acres of land, the usual allowance to officers who settled in the province, and in addition a special grant of 5,000 acres. The conditions of this latter

provided that he was to encourage settlers and for every fifty acres which he confirmed to a family from his own lands he was to receive from government an allowance of 200 acres. On these terms he set to work to settle up the country, choosing for his operations the counties bordering on Lake Erie from the Detroit river to the neighborhood of Port Stanley. It is said that from first to last he had the disposal of 200,000 acres, leaving a large estate, and is known in history as “Father of the Settlement” of the lake shore counties. He built a large house for himself, commanding a view of Lake Erie, at Port Talbot, a few miles south of St. Thomas. This house he called Malahide. It was well furnished and in it he dispensed a lavish hospitality to friends and visitors, the latter usually officers of the army and people of consideration who knew 697 his family. Many traditions remain of Talbot and Malahide. He was unmarried and his home was that of a bachelor. He had the graces a of social favorite and the polish of the fine society of Europe. He was of the circle of the friends of the Prince of Wales, afterwards George IV; had served at the headquarters under the Duke of Kent, father of Queen Victoria; knew everybody of consequence and was popular everywhere. Talbot made no explanations of his bachelorhood, but among the conjectures for his abandonment of the gay life of courts to locate in the wilderness, and clear up farms, the following are advanced: Some thought he was disappointed in his military ambitions; others, that unrequited love had forced him to a solitary life; others, his disgust at the profligacy of the age; lastly, that his pecuniary resources were inadequate to the demands of social duties in the higher spheres. Whatever the reason he became a pioneer and took upon himself the privations of a pioneer. Talbot, in 1801, wrote to the Duke of Cumberland—afterward King of Hanover—who was partial to Talbot, called him Tom and wondered why he staid so long away: “I am out at sunrise in my smock frock burning the forest to make a farm, coming home to my frugal supper, black as any chimney sweep.” In 1812 he was colonel in charge of militia organization in the west district, and showed capacity and attained success in this work. After the war his isolation tended to develop eccentricities which heightened his honest, guileless and outspoken characteristics, and tended toward his wider popularity. We have a glimpse of him in 1828, not in uniform and laces, resplendent with orders, or the gala attire of his youth, but in the winter costume of

a backwoodsman. “He wore,” says the narrator, “a sheep skin coat, a sheep skin cap and a long muffler made of sheep tails, the ends of which trailed by the side of his sleigh.” Col. Talbot died in 1853, aged 82 years.

121. Capt. John Norton of the Indian department. Very energetic but somewhat too lavish in giving his people supplies. Hence other Indian agents came, later on, to dislike him. His popularity with the Indians great. The Prince Regent expresses his gracious acknowledgement of Norton's exertions, through Prevost, March 5, 1814. John Norton “Snipe” (Teyoninhokaraven) was a half-breed, his mother having been a Scotch woman. He received a classical education at an English school. Next to Brant, Norton was the most distinguished of the Mohawks. His observations were said to be acute and his language strong and elegant. He was well versed in ordinary topics. In person he was tall and muscular with a large expressive eye. He was sent to Europe by Brant. Life of Brant, W. P. Stone, p. 288.

121. Mouth of Credit river, which enters Lake Ontario, ten miles northwest of Toronto, now called Port Credit.

125. Gen. Hull arrived in Detroit July 5, 1812; July 13, crossed to Sandwich and issued a proclamation, after which he returned to Detroit. Gen. Proctor surmises Hull's inactivity, after proclaiming an invasion of Canada, is due to a belief that delay will disperse the Indians.

127. Sir Roger Hale Sheaffe; born, Boston, 1763; died, Edinburg, 1851. A British general; defeated the Americans at Queenstown; commanded the defense at York (Toronto), 1813. Earl Percy's headquarters in Boston at the beginning of the Revolution was in the house of Sheaffe's widowed mother. He became much attached to the boy, and with her consent his lordship took him to England, gave him a military education and became his active friend. He frankly stated his reluctance to serve against his native country, and asked for a transfer, which was refused.

127. Greenbush lies 290 miles from the Niagara frontier where Dearborn's command was stationed.

127. John Vincent, major general, reaching that rank while in command of the army on the Ontario frontier. Received the thanks of the Prince Regent, (afterward George IV), for services at the head of Lake Ontario and vicinity.

128. Henry Dearborn, American general, 1751–1829. Served through the Revolution; secretary of war, 1801–09. In command on the Niagara frontier; aside from the capture of York (Toronto), did not distinguish himself. Greenbush, from whence he writes these letters, is near Albany. He was long absent from his army. President of the court martial that tried Hull at Albany, January, 1814. U. S. minister to Portugal, 1822–24. 88

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129. The intercepted correspondence gave the British to understand the situation as it affected the American forces at Detroit. See letters of Col. Myers to Gen. Prevost, p. 133.

131. This was the first of Gen. Prevost's proposals for an armistice. As will be seen by the date the meeting at Albany with Dearborn was about a week before the surrender of Detroit. One effect of the armistice was to relieve Brock of any apprehensions from attack on the Niagara frontier for the time being.

135. Major General Stephen Van Rensselaer, commanding the militia of New York state and at this time commanding on the Niagara frontier. He was not a professional soldier, his appointment was due to his great popularity and the wholesome patriotic influence exerted by him. As military adviser and chief of staff he had with him his cousin, Col. Solomon Van Rensselaer, an army officer. In this particular negotiation he gained the great advantage of having Lake Ontario made free for American transports, thereby bringing up supplies from Oswego. Gen. Van Rensselaer graduated at Harvard, 1782; major of militia, 1786, major general, 1801; lieutenant governor of New York, 1795–1801. Born, 1765; died, 1839.

135. Col. Solomon Van Rensselaer, 1774–1852. American soldier and politician. Served under Wayne at battle of Maumee Rapids, 1794; commanded the assault at Queenstown Heights, October, 1812; member of congress from New York, 1819–22. A cousin of Gen. Stephen Van Rensselaer, and a soldier of much repute.

137. Referring to Dearborn's willingness to suspend operations in the letter of August 8, *ante* p. 127. It is evident from the tenor of his remarks here, that he had no information of Hull's surrender of Detroit, although that event occurred ten days before the date of this letter. Sir George Prevost, at Montreal, did not receive Brock's report of the surrender until August 29.

139. Gen. Dearborn had signed the armistice with Prevost August 8. He was ordered peremptorily from Washington to put an end to the armistice, but continued it until August 29. This enabled Brock to return with most of his army from Detroit. The reinforcement Brock speaks of was a small body of troops under Col. Fenwick. The American commander on the Niagara frontier was Gen. Stephen Van Rensselaer until September 12. Dearborn neglected to follow orders, excusing himself by writing to the secretary of war, August 8, by saying that he did not consider the Niagara frontier in his limits “till now.”

143. Amable Chevalier was an Ottawa chief from western Michigan, employed as an interpreter, but now with his warriors on the war-path. The family of Chevaliers are quite numerous. In Vol. I of the cumulative index, Chevalier is incorrectly placed under A as Amable. He was the son of Louis Chevalier a merchant at St. Joseph, and was a Court Oreille, which means Ottawa. He assisted at the capture of Mackinac.

145. The fearful massacre at Chicago, which first called attention to the ferocity of the Indian allies of the British. The name Kenzie should be Kinzie. It refers to John Kinzie formerly a resident of Detroit, subsequently the first white man to settle in Chicago. His wife, Mrs. John H. Kinzie, is the author of “Waubun,” which contains (p. 159–174) our best account of the massacre. Gen. Proctor was in error in saying that John Kinzie was killed.

He had many friends among the Indians and was allowed to escape, reaching St. Joseph and then Detroit as a prisoner of war to the British.

149. Splitlog, a Huron chief, whose people were located along the lower portion of the Detroit river at this time. He was very active with the British but after the recapture of Detroit in September, 1813, returned and followed the warpath no more.

151. Roundhead, a celebrated chief of the Wyandots, an Indian warror and strategist, captured Gen. Winchester at the battle of the Raisin. Proctor considered the death of Roundhead at the battle of the Thames a serious loss to the British cause. A proved warrior as this incident will show. At the capture of Detroit Gen. Brock took off his own rich crimson silk sash and fastened it around the waist of Tecumseh. Next day Tecumseh appearing without the much prized sash, Brock inquired the reason. Tecumseh answered: “I do not want to wear such a mark of distinction when an older and abler warrior than myself is present.” He had given the sash to Roundhead.

153. Brigadier General James Winchester, 1752–1826. Lieutenant, 1776; in war of the Revolution; prisoner, exchanged in 1780. Retired and removed to Tennessee, 699 where he became wealthy and lived at ease for 30 years. Commissioned brigadier general in 1812, aged 60 years, and given command in the army of the Northwest under Harrison. The latter, embarrassed by Winchester's former service in the regular army, accorded the command to Winchester, who had not for many years had any military experience. Was unpopular with the troops—mostly militia—owing to his manners. Suffered a sad defeat on the Raisin, January 22, 1813, disregarding Harrison's advice to not undertake the movement at that season of the year. Made prisoner of war and taken to Quebec; exchanged in spring of 1814. Resigned from the army March, 1815.

154. The river Au Glaize was a tributary to the Maumee. It derived its name from the clay at its mouth, where there was formerly a large wallow for buffaloes. It was a river thoroughfare, its banks lined by many Indian villages, particularly Blue Jackets. At the

mouth of the river was a British trading post, this was also the location of Fort Defiance, so called by its founder, Gen. Wayne. Ruins of this fort were in evidence in 1846. Afterward Fort Winchester was built near the mouth of the river.

157. Frederick Augustus, Duke of York, second son of George III. Made field marshal and commander of the forces, 1795. Was necessitated to resign in consequence of scandal in 1809. Reinstated in 1811. From 1763, date of his birth, to 1802, was prince bishop of Osnabruck, Hanover; died, 1827.

158. Son of George III, 1762–1830. Appointed regent when his father became insane in 1811, and succeeded him as King of Great Britain, and also as King of Hanover, January 29, 1820, and thereafter known as George IV, King of Great Britain. Sketched strongly in Thackeray's “Four Georges.”

159. Judge Augustus B. Woodward, a territorial judge. Conspicuous in our territorial history. Among other things he had to do with the ground plan of Detroit, so much admired. A plan not achieved without strenuous work on his part. Woodward avenue, Detroit, is named for him. He figures extensively in many volumes of this society's historical collections.

160. Lieut. Linai Taliafero Helm, a step son-in-law of John Kinzie, first white settler in Chicago, known then as Fort Dearborn. Lieut. Helm married Margaret McKillip, daughter of Col. McKillip, of Sandwich, Ontario. Lieut, Helm and his wife were made prisoners at the massacre of Fort Dearborn, taken to St. Joseph, Michigan, and subsequently to Fort George, at Niagara, where they were exchanged.

In Vol. 1 of the cumulative Index of the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections, the name appears as Lieut. B. T. and also as L. J. (T.) Linai Taliafero Helm, of Virginia, was ensign December 9, 1807; second lieutenant, December 8, 1808; first lieutenant, January 20, 1813; captain. April 15, 1814; resigned September 27, 1814; died, October 15, 1838. Heitman's Reg. Vol. 1, p. 521. After the massacre at Fort Dearborn in 1812 there

came a separation between husband and wife. Margaret Helm applied for divorce and a decree was entered in her favor in the circuit court, Peoria county, Illinois, October 12, 1829. The jurisdiction of this court covered Chicago, and Peoria, at the date given, was the seat of justice for the present Cook county, Illinois. The decree of divorce awarded to Margaret Helm the custody of the son, Edwin, until he attained his majority; she was allowed to hold in her own right “all the money, property, reservation or interest that may have been stipulated or ceded to her as one of the heirs of John Kinzie, deceased, in the late treaty between the U. S. and the Ottawa, Chippewa, Potawatomie and other tribes of Indians as a part of the alimony to be allowed her from time to time as the situation of said complainant and child may call for.” The court record derived from the Burton papers, indicates that Margaret McKillip Helm was considered the aggrieved party, and had the fullest vindication and indemnification awarded her.

When Lieut. Helm was wounded in the battle during the retreat from Fort Dearborn, friendly Indians took him in charge and carried him to Peoria, III. While at that place in captivity he was ransomed and liberated by Thomas Forsyth, Mrs. Helm's half-brother.

The mother of Mrs. Helm and Thomas Forsyth had an interesting and romantic history. She was the widow of Major (or Lt. Col.) McKillip, a British officer killed at Fort Defiance in August, 1794, during Wayne's campaign against the 700 Indians. Her maiden name was Eleanor Lytle. She was captured by Seneca Indians, together with her mother and little brother in 1779, from her father's home near Pittsburg, Penn. The child, then some three years old, was adopted as a sister in the family of the celebrated Seneca chief Cornplanter. Despite the efforts made by the colonel, Sir John Johnson, British Indian agent, and of her father, Cornplanter refused to give her up. She became reconciled to life among the Indians and much attached to the “Old Queen,” Cornplanter's mother. In 1783 reluctantly and sorrowfully, and to the regret of all the tribe, Cornplanter gave her up. Immediately her father, with his family, removed to Detroit.

At the age of fourteen Eleanor Lytle married Col. McKillip. After his death the widow resided at Grosse Pointe, a few miles above the city, where she met and married John Kinzie. She was a woman of marked acquirements and among other things possessed a good head for business. While at Detroit the home of John Kinzie was in the old mansion at the northwest corner of Wayne street and Jefferson avenue. Kinzie, previous to 1812, became one of the original proprietors of Chicago and established a trading post there.

160. William Griffin, mentioned by Judge Woodward, is called, by Mrs. John H. Kinzie in “Waubun,” Quartermaster Sergeant Griffith. She describes his escape from the Indians.

160. Mrs. Burns, with her infant, was made prisoner by a Potowatomie chief and subsequently released.

160. Mr. Lee, a settler and his family, were slaughtered, but Mrs. Lee with her infant was captured by Black Partridge, who tried to win her as his wife, but she declined. Du Pin, a French trader at Chicago, procured her release and she became Madame Du Pin.

164. This was an American vessel called the Adams, but being captured at the surrender of Detroit was renamed the Detroit and immediately refitted and put into the British naval service on Lake Erie. She was burned as told in the dispatch.

164. The Caledonia was refitted and afterwards was joined to Perry's squadron and took part in the battle of Put-in-Bay, September 10, 1813.

164. Cornet Pell Major, of the “Provincial cavalry” as Brock calls the command, but officially known as the Niagara Light Dragoons. October 12, 1812, Gen. Brock communicated to Prevost “that Cornet Pell Major was particularly conspicuous and has much pleasure to find that the wounds he received are not likely to deprive the service very long of his gallant exertions.” But while he was writing this Pell Major the Cornet of Dragoons, died, and a few days later Charles Ellsworth was appointed cornet of the troop.

165. Frederick Rolette, born in Quebec, 1785; died in that city from the effect of wounds, 1831, aged 48 years. A pension of 300 crowns was afterwards granted his widow. At an early age Frederick Rolette enlisted in the British navy. Served under Nelson at the battle of the Nile, August 1–2, 1798, where he received five wounds, and also at Trafalgar, October 21, 1805. He was in Canada previous to 1812, and being recommended to Gen. Brock, was by Prevost appointed second lieutenant in the provincial naval force to command the brig Hunter. (See p. 66.) Before the outbreak of hostilities, July 3, 1812, by an act of daring and with only six men in a row boat, he captured near Malden the American schooner Cayuga Packet, engaged in transporting five officers and 33 soldiers, besides the crew—being a part of Hull's army moving on to Detroit, which place Hull himself reached on the evening of July 5th. Correspondence for Hull, which contained important military intelligence, was found on board. It supplied Gen. Brock with information which he used to great advantage in his campaign.

Rolette was with Proctor at the battle of the Raisin, January 22, 1813, where he was again wounded. At the battle of Lake Erie, Perry's victory at Put-in-Bay. September 10, 1813, Rolette took command of the Lady Prevost. In this battle he was again wounded and burned by a premature explosion of powder. He subsequently was made commander of the Detroit, formerly the American brig Adams. This vessel was surprised and captured the night of October 8, 1814. A court of inquiry completely exonerated him from blame. Rolette took eighteen prizes during the war. After the war citizens of Quebec presented him with a costly sword of honor in recognition of his heroic conduct in so many battles.

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169. Capt. Robert McDouall, an efficient and capable staff officer, stood high in the regard of Sir George Prevost. He was soon promoted major. Prevost sent him to England to explain the situation in Canada and this country. Clearheaded and capable, he was promoted lieutenant colonel on the recommendation of the commander-in-chief, August, 1813. Returning to Canada he was put in command at Mackinac and remained there until

the conclusion of the war. The name has been spelled variously; McDouall is the correct way. I have seen the authograph signature, where it is plainly spelled thus “Rt. McDouall.” James, and other English historians, give the name in this way. The error comes from copying, and the assumption that it should follow the common form of spelling the name.

171. Rapids of the Maumee. The river Maumee and the river Miami mean the same. The real Miami courses southward through eastern Ohio and eastern Indiana and is an affluent of the Ohio river. In 1812 the name of the Maumee was written “Miami of the Lakes” to distinguish it from the true Miami.

172. The communication of Judge Woodward was not forwarded to Gen Sheaffe until it had remained in the possession of Proctor for eighteen days. Proctor is to be credited with an effort on behalf of the prisoners taken at Fort Dearborn. Chicago, by the Indians. This interest was manifested before the massacre at the River Raisin.

177. Lieutenant Colonel Cecil Bisshopp, a capable British officer, whose amiable manners made him a favorite with friend and foe. Wounded in the thigh and in both arms July 11, 1813, while in command of an expedition against Black Rock, near Buffalo. Taken prisoner and died of his wounds July 16, 1813; buried on the south side of the road at Lundy's Lane. A monument to his memory was erected by his sisters, the Baroness de la Fouche and the Honorable Mrs. Rochell. The touching inscription on the monument records that Col. Bisshopp was the oldest and only surviving son of Sir Cecil Bisshopp, Bart., Baron de la Fouche in England. The name is spelled Bisshopp on this monument. James Sloan, an American, made prisoner in the engagement, describes Col. Bisshopp as “a mild. humane looking man, about 36 years of age; tall and well made and of exceedingly few words.” The raid on Black Rock was made by a force of 300 men under command of Col. Bisshopp, July 11, 1813. The object was to capture the military stores at that place and in this respect it was tolerably successful, Several cannon and a large quantity of supplies and munitions of war and valuable naval stores were secured and carried off, and an

American vessel was burned. The militia garrison fled to Buffalo, but Gen. Porter, the American officer commanding in the vicinity, quickly recaptured the place.

178. Capt. Robert B. Loring. The request was granted and Loring became aide-de-camp to Gen. Sheaffe. In 1814 was made military secretary to Lt. Gen. Drummond: was injured by the explosion of a magazine at the capture of York by the Americans, April 27, 1813.

179. Rapids of the Maumee, eight miles southwest of Toledo. The village of Perrysburg is at the foot of the rapids. Nearby is the scene of Wayne's battle of Fallen Timbers, 1794, wherewith the Indian war of that period terminated, and first result of which was the evacuation of Detroit by the British, 1796. Ft. Meigs is at the head of the rapids and near “Fallen Timbers.”

185. Henry, third Earl Bathurst, 1762–1834. An English statesman. At this time he was secretary of state for the colonies and secretary of war. As president of the board of trade he evinced interest in Arctic explorations. Inlets and islands in the Arctic seas and in South Australia are named for him. The earldom was created in 1772, and the style is “Earl Bathurst,” omitting the “of.” The present representative of the family is Seymour Henry Bathurst, who succeeded to the earldom in 1892.

196. Col. N. Boileau's letters on pages 196–7–8 were evidently intercepted by Ensign John Lambton of the 10th Royal Veterans. Lambton was engaged in enlisting the support of the western Indians, in which effort he was tolerably successful. Copies of the letters, duly authenticated, he forwards to his commanding officer, Capt. Roberts at Mackinac, who duly transmitted them to headquarters. A considerable number of the residents at Prairie du Chien claimed to be British subjects. See their memorial, p. 245–6. Boileau was the American agent to the Indians of the upper Mississippi. His principal 702 station was the agency at Portage des Sioux. This place is on the Mississippi, fifteen miles above the mouth of the Missouri and thirty miles north of St. Louis. It was within easy reach of both rivers and the name itself indicates that was a portage from one to the other. The

remark at the beginning of the first letter, “I must hide nothing from you, being disappointed at Laprairie,” indicates the disposition of the inhabitants of that place. They were mostly attached to the Northwest Fur Company and dealings with British Indian agents had influenced them against the Americans and against Boileau. Laprairie is in Illinois, situated inland from Quincy, on the Mississippi, about thirty miles, and by the river 150 miles from St. Louis. The military station at Fort Madison was nearly fifty miles distant.

196. Joseph Roe (Rocque—Roc), to whom the letters were addressed, was Boileau's interpreter; Roe was charged to interpret the second letter to the “Great Chief of the Winnebagoes,” who lived not far from Green Bay in the Lake Winnebago region. The name appears sometimes “Rocque” and also “Roc.”

202. James McGill John Richardson and William McGillivray were merchants at Montreal in the fur trade; heads of the Northwest Fur Co., one of the greatest enterprises of its day. There was strong rivalry between this and John Jacob Astor's fur company. The writers were Scotchmen of good families, as were their agents at all the remote posts throughout the northern and western country, even to the Pacific coast. The heads of the company lived in lordly and hospitable style at Montreal. James McGill was the founder of the great McGill University at Montreal; the others were also notable as public spirited citizens. He was a member of the provincial legislature and served in the war of 1812 as brigadier general. He spent most of his time at Montreal, where he died in 1813.

206. Robert Lucas, a prisoner of war at the surrender of Detroit, becomes prominent afterwards. This Robert Lucas, listed as an exchanged prisoner, was a strong character and an excellent type of the early pioneers. Although the officers herein named, Capt. Lucas included, were certified December 22, 1812, by the state department, Sir George Prevost issued a general order February 8, 1813, in which he protested against the “pretended release of the above named officers from their parole of honor.” He claimed that officers could not be properly exchanged except on a scale of parity of rank and service. The complication arose from the official inability of the British admiral, Sawyer,

at Halifax, to negotiate exchanges for the army. The matter was directly straightened out and the exchanges were equalized. Lucas was born in Virginia in 1781; came to Ohio in the year 1800; was chosen surveyor of Scioto county, 1803; lieutenant of state militia the same year, and also was justice of the peace for his township. He was commissioned captain in the regular army March 14, 1812, and assigned to the 19th infantry July 6, 1812. Before the date, as a captain in the Ohio militia, unassigned, he had volunteered to go with Gen. Hull on the expedition to Detroit. Hull sent him on with the advance and followed the advice of Lucas as to the details of the march. The action of Hull in surrendering Detroit disgusted Lucas. He eluded actual capture, though technically a prisoner of war, by securing passage on a vessel in which Gen. Brock sent to Ohio some of the non-combatants. He resigned his commission in the regular army January 2, 1813; he also declined commissions offered him as lieutenant colonel and colonel. Before the war he served a term as representative in the Ohio legislature, and again in 1831–32. He was state senator for fourteen terms, 1814–30, and speaker of the senate, 1829–30. Lucas was president of the first Democratic National Convention, held at Baltimore, May 21, 1832. Previous to this he was presidential elector at large from Ohio on the Jackson and Calhoun ticket, 1828. Robert Lucas was elected governor of Ohio, serving two terms, 1832–36. He was one of the earliest and most strenuous advocates for a rectification of the northern boundary of Ohio, as prescribed by act of Congress, 1802. As a surveyor, he argued that the line “drawn through the southerly extremity of Lake Michigan running east * * * until it shall intersect Lake Erie * * * thence through Lake Erie to the Pennsylvania line,” would pass several miles south of Lake Erie and divide Cuyahoga, Lake and other counties east of Cleveland, excluding from Ohio most of the Lake Erie coast line. This was the opinion in those days before government surveys had made much progress in the 703 West. Ohio, bent on having her coast line take in all of Maumee bay, began the agitation in 1802. Lucas, as a member of the legislature, was active in the matter. The result was that in 1817, under instructions from the surveyor general of the United States, but without orders from the department, William Harris surveyed “a direct line from the southerly extremity of Lake Michigan to the most northerly cape of Maumee

bay." This deprived Michigan of a strip of land the whole width of the Ohio boundary, five miles wide at the western end and nine miles wide at the eastern end. The claims of Ohio to this strip were not asserted until Lucas became governor and in February, 1835, sent out surveyors to "run the Harris line" and establish the jurisdiction of Ohio over the strip. Whereupon Governor Mason, and the territorial government of Michigan, resisted and the result was the "Toledo war." a resounding turmoil of militia generals and militia maneuvers, collisions between township officials holding allegiance to Michigan or to Ohio; missions to the president and warnings from him; activity of sheriffs and sheriffs' posses; a fever of excitement but no bloodshed. Finally, in July, 1836, Congress adjusted the boundary as Ohio wished and compensated Michigan by adding the Lake Superior country to her domains. Ohio named the county in which is situated Toledo, Lucas county, as a testimonial to Robert Lucas. He was appointed by President Van Buren first territorial governor of Iowa, 1838, and was a member of the first state constitutional convention, 1846. His diary of the campaign of 1812, a fine narrative of events up to the surrender of Detroit, with severe strictures on Gen. Hull, was published by the State Historical Society of Iowa, 1806.

210. Son of Sir William Johnson, noted during the Revolutionary war, and prior thereto as the very able and famous superintendent of Indian affairs, whose home was at Johnstown, N. Y., prior to the Revolution. This Sir John, the son, 1742–1830, served as a British officer in the Revolution, and afterwards as superintendent general of Indian affairs for all Canada.

215. This corps was known as Butler's Rangers, from its colonel, John Butler, an American Tory commander in the Revolutionary war. He led a force of 900 Indians and 200 loyalists which in 1778 desolated the settlement and is known in history as the "Wyoming massacre." After the war Butler removed to Canada. The British government made him Indian agent, presented him with 5,000 acres of land, and a salary and pension of $3,500 a year. In a report to Gov. Haldimand, dated Detroit, September 2, 1784, Jehu Hay "lieutenant governor and superintendent," gives a list of 48 "loyalists of Detroit, most of

whom were either in the Indian country, or a Niagara in Col. Butler's Rangers when I made by first report." In this list is the name of Matthew Elliott; also the notorious Butler died at Niagara, 1794. The Girty's were too old to take part in the war of 1812, Simon being at that date 71 years of age. They had beautiful farms near Amherstburg. Simon visited Detroit after its capture by Gen. Brock, his first visit there since the Americans took possession in 1796.

221. Treaty of Greenville, August, 1795. If the plan to have the Indians retire all Americans outside this boundary could have been made effective it would have surrounded Michigan with hostile tribes, and kept the Mississippi valley region under British domination.

224. These goods, intended for the Indians, were the means whereby Dickson was to procure the good will of western tribes. The articles were sufficiently tempting to the savages. It will be noticed that "rifles and scalping knives" figure in the list. At that time flint locks were used on all guns and pistols, and accordingly 2,000 flints were provided to go with the 750 pounds of powder. "Ear bobs" were tempting adornments, much prized by the Indians.

228. Apparently it is Proctor's opinion that in an open field the whole of Winchester's army would have been wiped out. "The fastness" refers to the shelter of the houses which the Americans occupied at Frenchtown.

232. The beautiful village of Sandwich, famed in war and in peace, county seat of Essex county, on the Detroit river, opposite old Springwells, or the present Boulevard west. Sandwich township extends eight miles along Detroit river and has a frontage on Lake St. Clair also. Windsor and Walkerville are both in Sandwich township.

234. The quotation is:

"I could a tale unfold whom lightest word

Would harrow up thy soul, freeze thy young blood.”

Woodward's view of the affair is singularly clear and correct. This letter appears to have fallen into the hands of the enemy, never reaching Secretary Monroe. It may be that Woodward anticipated the capture of his correspondence and was guarded in his expressions. The comparison of Proctor with his “illustrious predecessor” though a fine compliment to Proctor did not safeguard the latter from seizure.

239. Dr. Robert Richardson, here styled “garrison mate,” was a British medical officer. While acting as such with Barclay's fleet at the battle of Put-in-Bay, September 10, 1813, he was made prisoner of war; exchanged early in the spring of 1814. He served with Gens. Brock and Procter in the campaigns of the Right Division; was at the Raisin, on the Maumee, etc. Wrote a good history of the campaigns. He was popular with the Indians on account of the solicitude with which he attended them in sickness. “Midshipman R. Richardson” was his son. In the possession of G. M. Jarvis of Ottawa, Ont., is an interesting letter from John Askin the elder, dated January 25, 1813, giving an account of “the victory we obtained at the River Raisin on Friday last,” January 23, 1813. In the course of the letter, printed in “Documentary History of the Campaign upon the Niagara frontier,” by Col. E. Cruikshank for the Lundy's Lane Historical Society, occurs this statement: “None of our family suffered except Dr. Richardson's second son, Robert, 14 years old, shot through the leg. I have no less than seventeen of my family now in the service; sons, grandsons, including three sons-in-law”. By which we perceive that Dr. Richardson was one of Askin's sons-in-law and the youthful robert his grandson.

240. Francois Roy, son of Pierre Roy, who was the first settler in Detroit, according to many records, was born in 1713, his mother being an Indian woman who was called Marguerite Ouabankikone.

242. Woodward had a deep-seated contempt for Procter and a great admiration for Gen. Brock; Procter was aware of it. This personal feeling tended to inspire the vindictiveness expressed in this letter.

245. La Feuille, La Oja, Leaf, were the French names of a Sioux chief known as Wabashaw (or Oubachas), who was followed by more Indians than any chief of his tribe. His village was in Minnesota. He traveled extensively in the interests of the British, who gave him a commission as general, and was always given the military salute at Mackinac. He died in 1835, succeeded by a grandson of the same name. His son, also called Wabashaw, took a prominent part in the war of 1812.

245. This and the following letter are indicative of the strenuous work of the British agents among the Indians west of Lake Michigan—affecting the Sioux on the farther side of the Mississippi as well.

246. Joseph Rolette, an active and widely known British Indian trader on the Mississippi. He was appointed captain of volunteer militia in June, 1814, by Col. McDouall, the British commander at Michilimackinac. Rolette and Anderson, another British trader, raised 63 men in two days. This Joseph Rolette was an elder brother of Lieut. Frederick Rolette, (see appendix, note to p. 165). Mrs. John H. Kinzie in Waubun speaks of Rolette, an Indian trader and agent of the Northwest Fur Company. Rolette was returning to Prairie du Chien when he met the Fur Company's boat on Lake Winnebago, going to Green Bay for supplies. He stopped the voyageurs and inquired of them how things were at home at the trading post. “Is the new house finished?” “Yes, all finished.” “Does the chimney smoke?” “No, draws well.” “How is the harvest?” “Good, and all done.” “Is the mill working.” “Yes.” “How's the water for the Mill?” “Fine and plenty?” “How is Whip?” (his favorite horse). “All right.” “Why, very well. All right then. Bon voyage; go ahead.” And they resumed their padding. Some distance away Rolette shouted, “Arretez! Stop! How is Mrs. Rolette and the children?”

250. All the signers of this memorial were prominent in the affairs of Essex county. They were without exception officers and members of the militia.

252. The names of various persons of the Baby family occur throughout this volume, not clearly distinguished one from another by their proper names. The Baby family in this country is descended from James (Jacques) Baby de Ranville, 705 arrived in Canada in 1663. He was the father of twelve children. Eleven of these left sons and daughters, who died without posterity. The youngest son, a posthumous child, named Raymond, 1688–1737, is the progenitor of the existing line. He had eleven children; from his eighth child, James (Jacques IV) are descended the Babys of Michigan and Ontario. This eighth child, James Duperron, always called Duperron Baby, born in Montreal, 1731, came to Detroit in 1751 and married in 1760 Susan Hubert Lacroix Reaume. He died in Detroit in the year 1789. He was a merchant and fur trader of uncommon enterprise, successful in business and prominent in public affairs. Attached to the British cause he was appointed justice of the court of common pleas for the district of Hesse, as the peninsula of Upper Canada was called in compliment to the ally of George III, the Elector of Hesse. The appointment was made in 1788, but Duperron did not serve. He owned large tracts of land in Springwells. Baby creek, a beautiful stream skirting Woodmere cemetery, is named from Duperron Baby. Duperron Baby was the father of twenty-two children, three of whom figure in this volume as officers in the British army during the war of 1812. These three removed to Sandwich after the death of their father and have their names variously printed as J., Ja., I. B., B., F., colonel, lieutenant colonel, honorable, and other confusing modes, throughout this and other volumes of the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Collections. The purpose of these notes on the Baby family is to distinguish the personality of each of the three who figured as important public characters in the war of 1812. The eldest, and in civil life the most distinguished of the brothers, was James Baby, fourth child of Duperron Baby. James was born in Detroit in 1763, during the time of the siege by Pontiac; married in 1801 Elizabeth, daughter of James Abbott of Detroit. He was well educated, as were all his brothers and after leaving college passed some time in Europe. On his return he

went into active business with his father Duperron. He removed from Sandwich in 1816 to Toronto and died in that city in 1833. He held various civil offices in Canada, and became a member of the legislative council of Upper Canada, and also of the executive council. In this important cabinet position he was in intimate relations with Generals Brock and Drummond and with the commander-in-chief, Sir George Prevost. In a military capacity he ranked as colonel and was assistant quartermaster general of the militia of the western district. After the war, in recognition of his services he was made inspector general of Militia, a position that gave him proper rank and a comfortable salary. Early in February, 1814, he was captured with two other officers in a skirmish at Delaware by a force of Americans on a flying expedition under Col. H. Butler, commandant at Detroit. He was momentarily fastened with a rope but released when the fight was over. Col. Francis Baby never made complaint, but Drummond and Riall corresponded with Col. Butler about the matter. Family tradition has it that while on parole at his home in Sandwich he entertained his captor at dinner doing the honors gracefully.

Francis Baby, ninth child of Duperron, was horn in Detroit, 1768; married in 1795, Frances Abbott, sister of Elizabeth, wife of his elder brother, James; died at Windsor, 1838. Colonel of the Kent militia, 1793, and deputy in the provincial legislature from that county for several terms. As a brave and intelligent officer he earned the confidence of his commanders and the regard of his men. He participated in the battle of the River Raisin, January 23, 1813, and exerted himself to restrain the ferocity of the Indians, ransoming captives from them when other appeals were not effective. Gen. Hull in crossing over to Sandwich in 1812 occupied Francis Baby's house as his headquarters. The house is standing yet and in good condition. It commands an extensive view of the Detroit river and at intervals during the war was at times headquartors for Gens. Hull, Brock, Procter and Harrison.

Jean Baptiste Baby, tenth child of Duperron, was born in Detroit, 1770; married, 1817, Ann. daughter of William Hand, sheriff of Essex county; died at Sandwich, 1856. In 1810 he was a deputy to the provincial legislature from Kent county. Commissioned lieutenant

colonel of the 2nd regiment, Essex county militia, and is most frequently spoken of as Baptiste, or the initial B. Baby. He took charge of the fort at Malden in January, 1813, and with 89 706 his regiment was at the battle of the Raisin, January 23rd of that year. During the war his regiment saw considerable service.

252. Angus McIntosh a resident of Detroit in 1785, merchant and fur trader, connected with the Northwest Fur Company as agent. His name appears on the census roll of Detroit for the year 1806. He subsequently built a large, fine dwelling on the Canada side, about opposite the lower part of Belle Isle in the present limits of Walkerville. This he called “Moy House,” possibly after the river Moy in the north of Ireland, Killala bay, and about 1811 took up his residence there. Moy House was famed as long as he dwelt in it for the hospitality with which he entertained his friends, who came numerously from Detroit, Sandwich, Montreal, Mackinac and also many strangers from abroad. This house remained in 1809 staunch as of yore. In 1822 he built at Moy House the first three-masted schooner on the great lakes. Some years later he returned to his native land. An impression existed locally for a time that he returned to become Earl of Moy. There is no such title in the peerage of the United Kingdom, Ireland or Scotland. Several of his descendants are resident in Detroit and Windsor.

259. As Dickson intended leaving Sandwich February 22, but did not leave Detroit until March 4, he usefully employed the interval of twelve days in visiting tribes in Michigan on his way to St. Joseph, and, as appears, met with success. Some good accomplished is in arranging for the redemption of the captives from Fort Dearborn found among the Michigan tribes.

260. This is official information of the steps undertaken to array the Indians to “the southward” as far as “the sea coast” on the Gulf of Mexico. This laid out work for Gen. Andrew Jackson at Talladega, 1813, and Emuckfau and Horseshoe Bend, 1814, whereof Jackson acquitted himself well.

263. Though without signature the tone of the letter indicates that it may be attributed to Sir George Prevost, the commander-in-chief. It also indicates disgust at Indian barbarities, and inculcates his desire to restrain their ferocity. Q. 121, p. 169, a duplicate, has the signature Sir George Prevost.

268. Col. George Crookshank, assistant commissary general, was a very energetic officer, and performed marvelous work in furnishing supplies to McDouall. He had much ill fortune in the wreck of the Nancy with all her cargo. His persistency in the face of disaster won him success and the commendation of his superiors.

275. Harrison contemplated a movement on Malden, but on reaching the Maumee in the month of March, near the present city of Toledo, found the lake open and the roads too difficult on account of the breaking up of the frost in spring. He therefore fortified his camp there, leaving it in charge of Col. Charles Gratiot, an engineer officer of the regular army. We have the names Ft. Gratiot, Gratiot avenue in Detroit, Gratiot road to Port Huron, etc., from this Gratiot, who became brigadier general in 1828 and retired from service in 1838.

276. Proctor's embarkation return, April 23, 1813, for the expedition to old Ft. Miami, on the Maumee, and the later fort near the same place built by Harrison and called Ft. Meigs. This return mentions “about 1,200 Indians, commanded by Tecumseh.” American historians report 1,500 Indians and about 1,000 whites, half of them militia from Essex, Kent and adjacent counties. This return of Proctor's foots up a total of 987, of whom 462 were militia. There is consequently a substantial agreement as to the British force, the Indians constituting 1,500 of the total 2,500. This was Proctor's last incursion into American territory. The expedition made an unsuccessful attack on Ft. Meigs, cannonading it at intervals every day, May 1 to May 5. Proctor withdrew his forces by lake on the same ships that brought the expedition to Maumee bay. The names of the vessels and the quota each carried appears in the table. The massacre of Col. Dudley and his men, who were taken prisoners, was unrestricted. Tecumseh, who was a spectator, demanded of Proctor why he had not stopped it. Proctor: “Your Indians will not

be commanded." Tecumseh: "You are not fit to command. Begone! Go, put on petticoats!" Drake's *Life of Tecumseh* , p. 182.

282. The vessels were the "Friend's Good Will" and "Erie." Their crews had no knowledge that war had been declared. The story of the peltries and the ships is continued in the notes to pages 320 and 377. The signatures to this 707 memorial are those of partners in the Southwest Fur Co., which by agreement operated in territory to the southward of the Northwest company's lines. The same parties were heavily interested in the Northwest company. Eventually the furs and skins, greatly damaged, were given up, and as the owners were influential at Montreal they may have received and award of damages.

284. Capt. Robert H. Barclay, R. N., destined in four short months to be defeated with the loss of the entire British fleet on Lake Erie by Commodore Perry at the battle of Put-in-Bay, September 10, 1813. Barclay was one of Nelson's veteran officers. He lost his right arm at Trafalgar, October 21, 1805. At Put-in-Bay he was wounded in the thigh, and also in his remaining arm—losing the use of it. A capable and brave, but unfortunate officer. As a wounded prisoner he was treated with respect, kindly attention and good will. As soon as his condition would permit he was sent back to Canada. The British government officially declared that the "honor of the British flag had been nobly sustained" by him.

290. Lieutenant Colonel Warburton, 41st regiment, made inspecting field officer at Amherstburg, March 1, 1813, in place of Col. St. George. It was Col. Warburton who "saw the action (Perry's battle at Put-in-Bay) from an elevated situation fifteen miles below Amherstburg and described the firing as incessant and the vessels appeared to be very near each other." This was the first inkling Proctor had of the affair. Warburton managed the details of Proctor's retreat to the Moravian Town and was wounded at the battle of the Thames. On recovering health he served on the Niagara frontier.

294. Lieut. John LeBreton, Royal Newfoundland regiment; engineer officer under Proctor in the expedition to the forts of the Miamis (Fort Meigs on the Maumee), May, 1815;

deputy assistant quartermaster general on the staff of Lieut. Gen. Sir Gordon Drummond; severely wounded at Lundy's Lane, July 25, 1814; commended in general orders for his gallant and conspicuous conduct. An intelligent and trustworthy young officer.

299. Lieut. Col. John Harvey, C. B., deputy adjutant general, successively with Gens. Vincent, de Rottenburg and Drummond. Distinguished himself by a night attack on the advance column of Gen. Dearborn's army at Stoney Creek, five miles east of Hamilton, Ont., June 6, 1813. Among the prisoners taken were the American brigadier generals Chandler and Winder. The Americans were surprised. Harvey was made governor of Nova Scotia after the war. Settled, as such, with Gen. Winfield Scott the boundary line dispute with the state of Maine in 1839.

302. Whitmore Knaggs was a prominent character in the territorial days of Michigan. Indian Interpreter, scout, volunteer; a capable, strong man. His home was near the foot of Swain avenue, Detroit, where stood an old French windmill for grinding grain. The father of Knaggs went on a whaling voyage after the close of the Revolution from which he never returned. The mother with a family of two girls and five small boys settled in Frenchtown, now Monroe, where she kept a small store. The children grew up well skilled in French and the Ottawa and Wyandot Indian languages. This knowledge, together with a fair education and much natural ability, qualified Whitmore Knaggs to do the Americans much good service as scout and interpreter. He was held in much regard by the Indians.

304. This straight forward and moving letter was probably addressed to Sir George Prevost. It brought no immediate results, Knaggs being held in confinement for months. The ability of Knaggs is manifested by his appeal. The letter in the end went to Gen. Glasgow, commandant of Quebec prison, as Knaggs explains, p. 307.

309. Fort George at the mouth of Niagara river. Gen. Vincent was obliged by the vigorous attack of the Americans under Col. Winfield Scott and Col. James Miller to abandon the fort and retreat inland. Dearborn was a spectator from the deck of the Madison; credit for

the result of the battle has always been allotted to Scott and Miller. The battle took place May 27, 1813. This report shows that Gen. Vincent had his army in shape again. When his foraging party returns with cattle and supplies he will be ready to advance.

315. Read, “considering.” Col. De Boucherville was the private and confidential aide-de-camp to Sir George Prevost, usefully employed by him in gathering information, by his personal observations, at any point in all Canada wherever 708 it seemed necessary; also in conveying such private or verbal information from the commander-in-chief as would be instructive to the officers in the field and at the different posts.

329. De Rottenburg considered that with the Americans in control of Lake Ontario he would have to withdraw down the St. Lawrence, and Proctor's communication with the rest of Canada would be cut off. He felt no alarm for the situation on Lake Erie. Proctor scoffed at the notion of the retreating via Lake Huron, the Ottawa, etc., to Montreal.

335. The reconnaisance truthfully discovered Perry's force. He had nine vessels; we may as well note here the names of the vessels and their armament: Lawrence, 20 guns; Niagara, 20; Caledonia, 3; Somers, 2, and 2 small swivel guns; Porcupine, 1; Tigress, 1; Trippe, 1; the Scorpion and the Ariel, gun boats without bulwarks.

341. Col. Thomas Barclay, commissioner general of prisoners, represented the British army as exchange officer at New York. The letter that follows is in the cipher used by him. The numbers above represent the words deciphered below them.

344. This was the last expedition of Proctor to Fort Meigs. On this occasion Tecumseh devised a plan for a sham battle in the immediate neighborhood, intending to delude the garrison into the belief that the attack was on Gen. Harrison, who was in the vicinity of Lower Sandusky. The firing was furious, but Gen. Green Caly was not deceived. This abortive attempt, after a few cannon shot from the fort, failed and Proctor withdrew, July 26, 1813.

348. This is his explanation of the repulse he suffered at Fort Stephenson, now Fremont, Ohio, by the little garrison under Major George Croghan, August 2, 1813. Dickson, with his Indians, was with Proctor, saying in the parley: “For God's sake surrender and prevent the massacre, the Indians cannot be restrained.” Lieut. Shipp—who met the flag, answered: “There will be no massacre; the fort will not be given up while a man is able to resist.” Where-upon Dickson, the Indians, and the rest, retired.

351. Lt. Gen. Drummond, a capable British officer, who served with distinction under Wellington in the Peninsula campaigns. Was severely wounded at battle of Lundy's Lane, July 25, 1814.

351. Maj. Gen. P. Riall, a gallant officer with a modicum of military education and training. A man of fortune, said to have attained rank by the purchase of all purchasable grades. Born in Tipperary, Ireland, and in 1813 of middle age. Lossing, 1812, F. B., p. 805.

352. Barclay's fleet, as finally completed, and in commission for battle, consisted of six vessels—the flag ship Detroit, 19 guns; Queen Charlotte, 17, and two swivels; Lady Prevost, 13; Hunter, 10; Little Belt, 3, and Chippewa, 1 long 18 and two swivels.

359. This was a reconnoitering cruise, Perry intending, if all was favorable, to strike a bold blow at Malden. The wind proved unfavorable—sailing vessels being unable to make headway against the current of the Detroit without the help of a good breeze from the right direction.

375. Dundas street, a great highway through the province which in July, 1813, was ordered put in condition for the transport of troops, military stores and ordnance. Dundas street, sometimes called the Governor's road, commences at the lower Fort St. Lawrence and running along the north side of Lake Ontario and past the head of that lake, joins the old Detroit road at Oxford on the Thames. The road from Niagara proceeds westward near the shore of Lake Ontario to Ancaster at the head of the lake. Here it turns southwest to

Grand river and, taking the name “Detroit road,” continues to Oxford, where it is joined to Dundas street. Thence the Detroit road pursues its course, crossing the Thames at Delaware follows to the mouth of the Thames, and so along the south shore of Lake St. Clair to Detroit. It was along this end of the Detroit road that Gen. Harrison marched in pursuit of Proctor, over-took and defeated him on the Thames, October 5, 1813. In his flight Proctor hastened toward Ancaster on the same road. Kingston, usually spoken of as at the head of the St. Lawrence, is 423 miles from Detroit by Dundas street and Detroit road. Oxford is a small village between London and Hamilton, but nearer the first named city. The “press warrant” Capt. Chambers was provided with authorized him to seize supplies and needful material—in this 709 case teams and wagons. Since the war in South Africa the term “commandeered” is used to indicate seizures under military law.

377. Capt. J. M. La Mothe, an officer of the Indian department, who displayed energy. The name appears, p. 593, as Lamotte; p. 613 as Capt. I. M. Lamotte.

377. The Erie does not appear in reports of the battle. The “sloop” was the Little Belt. This vessel was built at the River Rouge at what used to be known as the “Shipyard,” now the grounds of Woodmere cemetery, on the river, during the winter of 1810–11, by Oliver Williams, later of Owosso, was named “Friend's Good Will.” Williams was on a trading trip to Lake Michigan in 1812, and put into Mackinac only to find the British in possession and his sloop made a lawful prize. She was transferred to the naval force under Barclay, and renamed the “Little Belt.”

379. Between Niagara and the head of Lake Ontario are numerous creeks, named by the first surveyors according to their distance from the mouth of Niagara river, not from Niagara Falls. There is the 4, the 8, 10, 12, 15, 16, 20, 30, 40 and 50 mile creeks. The 15, 16 and 20 mile creeks form deep ravines. The road from Niagara by the lake and the road from Queenston unite at the Twelve, and the road from Fort Erie joins them at the Twenty mile creek and from there on, westward, the highway was known as the Detroit road. From Niagara Falls to Detroit, via Ancaster, and the Detroit road is 204 miles. The

defeat of Procter, as Gen. de Rottenburg says: “Must force me back to the position at Burlington Heights.” He was expecting a forward movement by Gen. Harrison along this Detroit road. “Four Mile creek” is about 45 miles east of Burlington Heights. The battlefield of the Thames is rather more than 100 miles from Burlington. We now know that Harrison did not intend to advance to that place.

392. Prisoners, it is inferred, redeemed from the Indians The boy, Peter Bell, may be one of the “children” Capt. R. Dickson reports to Secretary Freer in his letter dated “St. Joseph's, Lake Michigan, March 16, 1813.” Mrs. John H. Kinzie in Waubun does not make mention of the name Bell in connection with the massacre.

400. Naturally Gen. Procter was much depressed; the ride from the battle field was headlong. Beginning at 4 o'clock he made the distance to Delaware, 30 miles, and wrote his dispatch on arrival there that evening. Accompanying Procter in his flight was this Major John Hall, Lieut. Allan H. McLean, 41st regiment, A. D. C.—and Adjutant Reiffenstein: a small squad of dragoons followed as a rear guard. Reiffenstein, it appears, continued on, probably riding through the night.

409. American generalship in this war was indifferent. In view of this letter think what might have resulted from vigorous co-operation between Harrison and Wilkinson in October, 1813. The latter took most of the army from the Niagara frontier, October 2, 1813. Harrison was victor at the Thames, October 5, spreading dismay to Vincent at Burlington. Jackson, Macomb and Harrison were the only American generals who distinguished themselves in this war.

417. Gen. Wade Hampton, 1754–1835. American general and politician; served in the Revolution with distinction under Marion and Sumter. Could not get along with Gen. Wilkinson, and resented being placed subordinate to that officer. Disobeyed orders of the latter, and retired from the service, January, 1814. His estimate of Wilkinson was sufficiently correct, but it could not absolve him from disobedience. Hampton assumed

that his command was independent and not subject to other commanders. Secretary of War Armstrong wrote Wilkinson August 9, 1813, that Hampton was to “operate contemporaneously and under your orders.”

418. The obvious conclusions of the British commanders was that Harrison and Wilkinson would co-operate. That idea appears to have had no weight with the incompetent Wilkinson. The expectation that Harrison would be made commander-in-chief, was defeated by the refusal of Secretary of War John Armstrong. Harrison, who had arrived at Buffalo, October 24, 1813, found part of his forces diverted to Sackett's Harbor, to “save stores.” Under the circumstances he was given leave to go home where he later wrote his resignation. Gen. Armstrong, secretary of war, accepted it without consulting President Madison, who was absent from Washington at the time.

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433. Capt. Roberts, relieved, can now enjoy a well earned rest, catch up with the news, and point to the colors he captured. His expense money, twenty pound sterling, should be reimbursed him. The journey could not well be accomplished for less in those days, with his guide, steersman and five voyageurs.

436. Gen. Harrison with part of his army left Detroit, October 22, for the Niagara frontier. Arrived there he expected to move against Gen. Vincent at Burlington. While preparing for this he was ordered by Secretary Armstrong to detach McArthur's brigade to Sackett's Harbor, and then was given leave to go home. Armstrong had broken up his command. The result was Harrisons resignation from the army, which Armstrong, without referring it to the president, quickly accepted.

439. Refers to the terror manifested by the British taken prisoners at the battle of the Thames. Some of the officers captured there lifted up their hands, crying “quarters,” fearing retaliation for the massacres at the Raisin and the Maumee. Harrison, and the Kentuckians, too, showed the prisoners every consideration and treated them kindly.

440. This was at the time when Secretary of War Armstrong and Gen. Wilkinson decided that the army should move down the St. Lawrence and attack Montreal. Abandoning the previously arranged movement of co-operation—Harrison to advance by way of Burlington, and Wilkinson by the north side of Lake Ontario—allowed Vincent freedom to act with de Rottenburg, and resulted disastrously for Wilkinson.

441. Col. Duncan Darroch of the 36th Foot. Promoted to major general by the Prince Regent, June 4, 1813, at the same time as was Vincent, Proctor and De Watteville. His first unpleasant duty occurred shortly after this promotion. Terrence Hunt, serving in the American army, was among the prisoners taken near Kingston. It was ascertained that Hunt had deserted from the British 6th regiment of foot in July, 1803, ten years before the war. Being tried by court martial as a deserter found in arms against the crown, he was sentenced to death by being shot; “the sentence to be carried into execution by Major General Darroch in the presence of the garrison under arms with all that awful solemnity which the occasion calls for.”

442. This Riviere aux Raisin is a small stream in Ontario, Canada, in the vicinity of Cornwall on the St. Lawrence and has no reference to the one near Detroit. The action mentioned was the beginning of the battle of Chrysler's farm, November 11, 1813, which resulted ineffectually, the Americans retiring at night to their boats.

445. There was also a small swamp midway between the river and the large “impenetrable swamp” on Proctor's right. The small swamp obligated the advancing Americans to divide, part to the right, part to the left, of the miry morass. Farther down where the swamp narrowed to a point and the solid ground was contracted in space, Proctor's force was disposed as he explains. “The Indians right thrown up” means that the red men lined toward the edges of the large swamp, and were thereby in position to get a flanking fire on the advance.

447. Showing that Prevost lost no time in concentrating his forces in anticipation of aggressive work by the Americans, the situation in western Ontario giving opportunities to unite their separated armies—opportunities the American generals neglected.

449. This suggestion to work for the control of Lake Huron would have been a menace to Detroit, but so many difficulties interposed that Prevost seems to have concluded it to be an unfeasible plan.

450. Barclay would have been obliged to meet Perry sooner or later. That aggressive officer had already sailed within sight of Malden. If the wind had been sufficiently favorable he would have kept on. A blockade of Malden by Perry would have cleared the way for Harrison's advance by land. Barclay took the best course open to him.

454. Fort George, better known as the village of Newark. Gen. McClure was left in command of Fort George—Wilkinson having ordered Harrison, Scott and pretty much the whole force, to Sackett's Harbor for the movement on Montreal. In pursuance of Drummond's plan, as outlined in this letter, Col. Murray with regulars and Indians, advanced; McClure's force was too small to hold the place, and he decided to move across the Niagara river to Fort 711 Niagara. Gen. Armstrong, secretary of war, previously had authorized McClure to “destroy the town of Newark” in defense of his post. McClure attempted to blow up the fort, and fired the town, December 10, 1813. McClure gave the inhabitants twelve hours' notice. James, the English historian, says “few believed him earnest.” All but one of the houses were consumed. It was a reprehensible case and sowed the seed of retaliation from which many non-combatants suffered.

455. Col. John Murray, “inspecting field officer of militia.” The capture of Fort Niagara by him was important to the British, but easily accomplished. The commanding officer, Capt. Leonard, was at home with his family three miles in the rear, his departure being without the knowledge of any in the garrison. The main gate was found open. The sentinels were seized and in fear gave up the countersign. It was easy work, and the subsequent

slaughter not justified by any resistance. Invalids were put to the bayonet. In all 90 men and 2 officers were killed, 330 men and 14 officers taken prisoners. Capt. Leonard, suspected of treachery, was “disbanded” from the army. Lossing, 1812.

457. The “success in this quarter” refers to the recapture of Fort George, the taking of Fort Niagara, the sacking of Youngstown, Lewiston and other places, the burning of Buffalo, and the desolation of 36 miles of the country on the American side of the Niagara river. All this in retaliation for the burning of Newark. So barbarous and sweeping was the conduct of the Indians that Sir George Prevost announced, January 12, 1814, that “rapine and plunder” would cease, “unless the future conduct of the Americans” provoked it.

459. An officer of militia; home was at Long Point. Lt. Gen. Drummond promoted Medcalf for the success attending his raid. It was a case of surprise, the Americans being asleep in the farm house with no one on one on guard. Medcalf's farm sustained a loss of £300, as he claimed in a subsequent raid by Americans, May 15, 1814.

461. “Trustees appointed by Lieutenant General Drummond, president, administering the government of Upper Canada, to distribute the Nova Scotia Benevolence to the sufferers by the war in this province.” reported in June, 1816, that they procured returns of houses burned at Newark and places on the Niagara frontier. Agreed, after canvassing various propositions, to limit the distribution to the town of Newark and the “line to Fort Erie.” After calling to their assistance a competent committee “to estimate the value of the buildings and the relative circumstances of the sufferers” they awarded the funds as follows: The houses burned at Newark were in number 80; value, £30,520, (probably Halifax currency, the money being contributed by Nova Scotia) which would average $1,525 for each house and its contents. Houses destroyed “on the line to Fort Erie,” were in number 18; value £6,050, or an average of $1,366 for each house. An estimate of other losses to “the properties of those not distressed,” amounts to £22,525, say £90,000. “Money distributed to the remainder, £14,045, or about £56,180.

462. Lt. Col. A. de Salaberry, an active British officer who defeated Gen. Zebulon M. Pike at La Colle, Canada, a short distance from the head of Lake Champlain, November 20, 1812. Gen. Pike was subsequently killed in the action at York, (Toronto), April 27, 1813. He had attained the rank of major general. His fame rests chiefly on his explorations in the west, being the discoverer of Pike's Peak in 1806.

463. General order was for guidance in the movement on Buffalo, which began the night of December 29, resulting in the engagement of the 30th, the discomfiture of the Americans, the burning of Buffalo, and continuous plundering. Chippewa is one and one-half miles above Niagara Falls.

464. A secret order issued by Drummond to guide the commanders of the divisions in the attack on Fort Erie at 2 a.m., August 15, 1814, contains this sentence: “The lieutenant general most strongly recommends a free use of the bayonet.” Drummond was defeated and driven off with great loss by Brig. Gen. Gaines, in the attack on Fort Erie.

466. The reoccupation of Detroit, and the defeat of Proctor, cut off supplies from the Lake Erie region. Communication with Montreal was available by the Ottawa river route. The commissiary department being unprepared, found the season too late for the northern route.

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468. Lt. Col. William James, at this date commanding at Burlington. Having information that there were then at Detroit “not more than 200 men barely soldiers,” he obtained permission to make an attempt on that city. Project abandoned, roads too difficult at that season.

472. So much for worthy Capt. Bullock, very hungry at Mackinac, subsisting on half a pound of meat a day for four days in the week, eked out with corn meal and fish—the latter plentiful. Hopefully he will get this expected supply, but up to March it had not arrived.

475. Point aux Pins, in Kent county, Ontario. It extends into Lake Erie 40 miles east of Point Pelee. The latter point is 10 miles from Pelee island; from there to Middle Bass island is five miles; Put-in-Bay island is next and two miles distant. Under favorable conditions communication between the Canada shore and the islands can be had over the ice, but at no time do such conditions last long, and the passage of an army across on the ice could not be safely undertaken.

476. This fancifully planned expedition to recapture Detroit was never undertaken. Sir George Prevost did not approve, and a month later Drummond thought conditions made it impracticable—season too far advanced.

487. Colonel 4th infantry; Brigadier General John P. Boyd, 1764–1830. Serving as ensign in the 2nd infantry from 1786 to 1789; he went to India and was given an important command with large pay by the Nizam—then at war with Tippo Sultan; returned to the U. S. and re-entered the army, 1808. Was with Harrison at Tippecanoe; at the capture of Fort George; in the action noted in this letter and others during the war. He was repulsed at Crystler's farm.

494. The order to assemble a court martial to try Procter. It assembled in 1815. He was found guilty of misconduct in not providing for a retreat; acquitted of any lack of personal bravery or indiscretion at the time of the battle. Sentence was to be “publicly reprimanded and suspended from rank and pay for six months.” The Prince Regent reprimanded the court for its “mistaken leniency.”

498. James L. Basden, captain 89th regiment, had an interesting career as captain of the light company of the 89th regiment. He was going along finely from the opening of hostilities until July 14, 1813, when, upon reports of irregularities and misconduct by his company, Sir George directed Lieutenant Colonel Morrison to relieve Basden and appoint another captain to take charge of that company. Further light on the subject showed Basden not at all to blame, whereupon by general orders September 21, 1813,

he resumed his place at the head of his company and was placed in command of all the “recovered men of all the regiments of the center division.” He was in every battle on the Niagara frontier. At Lundy's Lane, July, 1814, his formerly censured light company covered itself with glory, standing up to the fight though almost overrun by the precipitancy of the retreat of De Watteville's grenadiers. Basden's name was mentioned by Drummond several times appreciatively and sometimes with unusual praise. During the Canadian troubles of 1838, referred to as the patriot war, Basden commanded at Malden. A banquet given by the officers of the regular army and the militia of Detroit to the officers of the garrison at Amherstburg, brought together at the same table in 1839 Col. Basden, for he had reached that rank, and Gen. Hugh Brady. They had last met in the clash of battle at Lundy's Lane in 1814. (See Vol. XIII, Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society Collections, p. 540.)

498. This American foraging party consisted of rangers and mounted infantry under command of Capt. A. H. Holmes, 24th U. S. infantry. Col. H. Butler, then commanding at Detroit, had dispatched the party, numbering 160 men, toward the last of February; the snow was deep. Capt. Holmes established himself on some high ground behind a breastwork of felled trees, and awaited the attack of Capt. J. L. Basden with 230 of the 89th Royal Scots; rangers and militia, and 50 Indians. The American loss was 4 killed and 4 wounded. The British loss, killed, wounded and prisoners, was 60. Longwood, from which place Ensign Miles writes his report, is between Moravian Town and Delaware, on the Thames.

500. Lieut. Col. H. Butler, then commanding at Detroit, was an energetic officer. His scouting expeditions during the winter obliged Gen. Drummond to divert support from the Niagara frontier. Col. Butler was killed in the war with Mexico.

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506. The decisive battle of Leipzig (Leipsic), October 16, 18 and 19, 1813, marked the closing of Napoleon's power, and the rapid approach of his downfall, and released much

of the British army from the European campaigns. At the time this dispatch of Earl Bathurst was being penned Napoleon was in the midst of his last desperate struggle for a foothold in France. The allied armies entered Paris March 31. The consequence was the dispatch of large reinforcements to Sir George Prevost without delay.

520. Harrison's division was at this time in the Lake Ontario country. Unasked to do so, Secretary of War Armstrong had given Harrison permission to visit his family at Cincinnati; he had also interfered with Harrison's prerogatives as commander-in-chief of the eighth military district, and persisted in annoying him. This convinced Harrison that the secretary intended to deprive him of all command. In consequence Harrison resigned, May 11, 1814. The country was deprived of his valuable services—services the enemy appreciated. The times were critical and the loss great.

527. Gen. Drummonds tactful way of getting rid of McKee was actuated partly by the contingency that Col. Matthew Elliott, superintendent of Indian affairs, reported dangerously sick at this time—might be succeeded by McKee, who was next in line. When Elliott died a few weeks later, Drummond recommended that Col. Caldwell be appointed to fill the vacancy.

528. Gen. William H. Winder, captured at the battle of Stoney Creek, near Burlington, June 6, 1813, was a prisoner of war in Canada the date of this letter. He was exchanged a fortnight later. Armistice resulted in a parley—nothing more.

537. Maj. Gen. Alexander Macomb, born in Detroit, April 13, 1782; died at Washington, June 25, 1841. Educated in New Jersey; joined the New York Rangers as a volunteer, 1779; attached to the staff of Gen. North of the Revolution. Became permanently attached to the army as cornet of dragoon, serving with Gen. Wilkinson in the Southwest. Attached to the engineer corps as a lieutenant, and later took a course at West Point. Captain, 1805; major, 1808, and in 1812 attached to the artillery corps. Rapidly promoted to brigadier general. Crowning achievement was at Plattsburg, September 11, 1814. Became

general-in-chief of the United States army in 1835. On Macomb's promotion to major general, Congress awarded him a gold medal. The Society of United States Daughters of 1812 erected a statue to Macomb in his native city of Detroit. The Michigan legislature of 1905 made a small appropriation toward this statue.

544. The terms herein specified by Sir George Prevost were not unfair. As nothing resulted from the offer it is believed that it was not comprehensive enough for the Americans. The British army commanders, and Sir James L. Yeo, the naval commander, opposed the idea of an armistice. April 15, 1814, Col. Baynes, adjutant general of the Canadas, and Gen. Winder of the American army—then a prisoner of war—entered into an agreement that all prisoners of war should be exchanged, to be ready to serve May 15. Gen. Winder's engaging personality was thought by British officers to unduly influence Prevost, hence their opposition to the proposal.

548. Gen. Winder had been appointed to command the army at Washington, then menaced by reports of an unexpected British fleet and a British force under Gen. Ross—all of which appeared in due time and eventually captured Washington.

549. Expedition sailed as planned May 4th, appeared off Oswego the 5th, and attacked it May, 6th, landing and taking possession of the place. Withdrew on May 7th, with captured guns and stores, and Growler and two sunken boats, and burned the barracks at Oswego.

573. Blackbird, (Mack-e-ta-pe-na-ce), a Wyandot chief, whose tribe was mainly from Michigan and the Maumee valley. In a speech to Col. Claus, the deputy superintendent general of Indians, July 15, 1813, The “Bastard,” a chief of the Ottawas, and many others of that tribe being present, Blackbird spoke with much heat of the treatment the Ottawas had received from the Americans. He mentioned having been in the battle at the Maumee Rapids last year where we fought the Big Knives (Americans). He arrived in the vicinity of Niagara, with 140 Ottawas, July 5, 1813. On the 8th, with his Indians, he was engaged in the skirmish at Ball's farm, Niagara township; a week later a requisition 90 714 for

clothing was made out for him and some of his warriors. They then thought of leaving but were persuaded “to remain to the end of this quarter of the moon.” It appears by Gen. Drummond's letter that 90 Wyandots were than at Kingston Beach, consequently these Western Indians continued in the British service until that time. A family of educated Indians by the name of Blackbird has long had their home near Traverse City. A chief bearing the name of Blackbird of Harbor Springs published quite a creditable book regarding his race. This seems to have been a favorite name among the Indians as we find a Potowatomie chief Blackbird, called also Sigenauk, or more generally Latourneau, who aided the Spanish incursion, took part in Chicago massacre, signed Wayne's treaty, and who died 1815.

573. Splitlog (Spitlog), a Huron chief whose people were located along the Detroit river during the French regime.

574. Col. John B. Campbell, 11th U. S. Infantry, with a force of 500, partly Pennsylvania militia, undertook this expedition, sailing from Erie to gather up at Put-in-Bay men and material left there after the battle of September 10, 1813. After attending to this duty and bringing back all that remained on the island, he sailed for Dover, arriving there May 14, 1814, and remaining until the 16th. See Deposition of Mathias Steels, p. 574, and the correspondence between Gen. Riall and Col. Campbell, p. 592. A detailed statement of individual losses by the conflagration at Newark, made in an application for relief from the “Nova Scotia fund,” the total is figured at £12,608, Halifax currency, or about $50,432. This amount was assigned to those whose houses were burned at Dover. The demand of Gen. Riall for “an explicit declaration” of who was responsible for this destruction of the property of the inhabitants caused a court of inquiry to be held, of which Gen. Winfield Scott was president. The court found that Col. Campbell had no justification for burning the houses, but that the laws and usages of war under certain conditions, which held in this case, justified him in firing the distilleries and flour mills. Col. Campbell was severely wounded in the battle at Chippewa, July 9, 1814. His regiment in Scott's brigade suffered much loss. McClure, as noted in this volume, took it upon himself to set fire to Newark.

The British then set fire to Buffalo, Lewiston, Havre de Grace, etc. Campbell applied the torch to Dover. In warfare “retaliation” means sorrow to peaceful inhabitants.

580. Commodore Yeo was at this time blockading Sackett's Harbor, vigilantly hopeful of preventing the outfitting of Commodore Chauncey's squadron. Various attempts to intercept naval supplies, and armament intended for Chauncey had been foiled, with much loss to Sir James Lucas Yeo; the British fleet withdrew a day or two after the date of this letter. The tone of it is evidence that Sir James Lucas Yeo was aware of Chauncey's supremacy. The latter established a blockade of Kingston August 9, and shut up Yeo's fleet until the last of September. Then the St. Lawrence, 112 guns, being ready for sea —Yeo was again lord of the lake, Chauncey retiring to Sackett's Harbor. These alternate displays of belligerency for the control of Lake Ontario continued spasmodically until peace was proclaimed, January, 1815.

585. Capt. Charles Reaume had been interpreter at Detroit for the British from 1763; on the occupation of the city by the Americans, 1796, he appears to have continued in the Indian service in Canada and the west.

586. This endorsement of the proposition to give up the blockade of Sackett's Harbor, and take the defensive at Kingston—accomplished what Sir James Lucas Yeo had in mind when he wrote, 3rd June, 1814, from the “Prince Regent at anchor off Sackett's Harbor” to Drummond. See the letter on p. 580.

589. Capt. Andrew Westbrook, born in Massachusetts; taken by his father to Nova Scotia; afterwards lived at Delaware on the upper Thames when the war broke out. He favored the American cause and they drove him off. He was a man of considerable wealth, lived in a fine house, owned a distillery, etc. Coming to this side he organized a company of rangers and proved to be an active partisan soldier. On his first visit with his rangers to Delaware, (noted in this report of Gen. Drummond), he called them around his former home and pointed out his possessions. Then, swinging a fire-brand, he said: “Boys, you

have fifteen minutes to plunder my premises; after that I give them to the flames." He set fire to his house, barns, distillery, etc. Westbrook took 715 up his residence at what is now Marine City, where he owned a farm that yielded $5,000 worth of produce annually. A noted, strong and hospitable character. Usually called by Judge Witherell and his friends, "Baron Steuben" on account of certain amiable eccentricities.

589. The Captains, Popham and Spilsburg, here spoken of, were in command of two gun boats sent out to intercept a flotilla with supplies and armament for Chauncey's fleet at Sackett's Harbor. They were ambushed by a land force under Major Appling when advancing up Sandusky creek, May 20, 1814. The whole party surrendered. British loss, Midshipman Hoare and 17 killed, 50 wounded. American loss, 2 men wounded.

591. John Jacob Astor, born Waldorf, Germany, 1763; died, New York, 1848. Founder of the immense fortune of the Astor family, largely acquired in the fur trade. He was a patriotic American, and usefully contributed to establishing American interests in Oregon, and our early extension of trade to China.

602. Lieutenant Worseley was sent to supercede Lieut. Poyntz at Mackinac. The latter had lofty ideas of his position as the naval officer on that station. Hence the injunction to Worsley to comply with McDouall's requisitions, which his predecessor loftily ignored.

605. This refers to the battle of Chippawa, July 5, 1814, between Gen. Riall and Gen. Winfield Scott. The forces engaged were 1,700 British and Indians, 1,300 Americans. British loss 236 killed, 322 wounded, 46 missing; American loss 61 killed, 255 wounded, 19 missing. It was a severe engagement. Gen. Riall exposed himself courageously to rally his broken forces, but was unable to prevail. The British retreated hastily to the Chippawa creek, the Americans holding to their position on Street's creek. This battle ground is three miles up stream from Niagara Falls.

619. This is the expedition organized by Col. McDouall, see his letter dated Mackinac, 16 July, 1814. The expedition departed from Mackinac June 25th. Prairie du Chien had been

in possession of the British since 1812. Early in June, 1814, Gen. Clark retook it with a force of Americans who had sailed up the Mississippi in boats.

620. Col. McKay's force consisted of 120 Michigan Fencibles and Canadian militia and 530 Indians. There was every reason to dread massacre by the Indians. Capt. Perkins' force, all told consisted of 3 officers, (commissioned), 63 men, including a commissary and interpreter. The surrender occurred at 6 in the evening of the 19th, but did not become effective until next morning, June 20. Col. McKay by strenuous exertions controlled the savage instincts of the Indians.

622. Sir Alexander Cochrane, vice admiral, was the senior officer commanding the naval forces of Great Britain on the American coast. This order of his was supplemented by a letter of the same date to Secretary of State Monroe in which he states that he has issued orders to the naval force under his command “to destroy and lay waste such towns and districts upon the coast as may be found assailable.” James, the English historian, calls it “an illadvised letter.” The order was followed out and many scenes of fire and destruction ensued. Lossing asserts the letter to Monroe was ante-dated, so as to serve for an excuse to set fire to the public buildings at Washington. It did not reach Monroe until August 31. Monroe's scathing reply aroused attention in Europe. Speeches in parliament (November 8, 1814), censured Admiral Cochrane, and English newspapers and statesmen deplored the barbarity of the sentiments expressed in the orders issued by him.

625. James J. Porlier was the son of Capt. Jacques Porlier, who was the most useful man in the Green Bay settlement. He was educated for a priest, but preferred the business of the fur trade. He served as judge of Wisconsin territory in 1836. His son mentioned here, James J. Porlier, was commissioned lieutenant at Green Bay when only 18, and only served a short time before peace was declared, when he engaged in trade, married and died at Grand Kaukaulin 1838, leaving a family.

626. The outspoken Col. McKay gives the French names for the tribes in Wisconsin, Lake Superior and the upper Mississippi who were attached to the British cause, and served in his campaign. The “Soteaux” he mentions were the Sauters, or Jumpers, meaning the Chippewas; the “Courte Oreilles,” or Short Ears, were Ottawas; Folles-Avoines, wild oats, as the French called the wild 716 rice which formerly grew so plentifully in the rivers and bays of Lakes Erie, St. Clair, Huron and Michigan, were better known as Menominees. McKay had not much use for them. Still less use had he for the Puants, Polecats, or more literally, Stinkers, politely known as the Winnebagoes. The name was probably first applied from their custom of wearing skunk fur on their legs when on the war path.

633. Michael Dousman, a native of Pennsylvania, came to Mackinac soon after its surrender to the Americans. He prospered wonderfully, becoming one of the most influential and wealthy citizens on the island. He was taken prisoner in 1812, but released to rescue the women and children confined in the fort. He held the office of mayor or president of the village in 1824, and served seven years as probate judge.

635. The Nancy had a lively and adventurous experience for upwards of two years on Lakes Huron and Erie. She was a fore and aft topsail rigged schooner with one square sail on the foremast; 70 tons, which is a small craft. Belonging to the Northwest Fur Company, she was impressed July 12, 1812, by Col. St. George at Amherstburg. She was first employed to bring reinforcements from Fort Erie to Proctor. Actively cruising all that year. April 23, 1813, she transported 8 officers and 83 men—a load that crowded her capacity, from Amherstburg to the neighborhood of the fort on the Maumee, up stream from the present Toledo. October 7, 1813, being on voyage to Amherstburg from Mackinac, she narrowly escaped capture in the upper part of the St. Clair river. By lucky notice of Proctor's defeat at the Thames, October 5, 1813, her captain managed to get away to Lake Huron. Unable to properly refit her, still McDouall made good use of the schooner in the struggle to supply Mackinac. The end came August 14, 1814, when Worsley was obliged to set her on fire to prevent the Americans from taking the schooner. Her owners

were allowed £2,200 for the vessel and £1,243 for her two years of service. After being impressed for naval uses she was fitted out with an armament suited to her construction and tonnage.

641. These vessels were of the fleet of Commodore Arthur St. Clair, sent to reduce Mackinac, but were driven off with considerable loss by Col. McDouall and his strong force of Indians. The Niagara, Caledonia and St. Lawrence returned to Detroit; the Scorpion and Tigress, Captains Champlin and Turner, were left to blockade the Natawasaga, and cut off the supplies from that quarter that Crookshank was so diligently gathering. The capture of these vessels was due to negligence, anchoring in assailable positions and maintaining no lookout.

641. Lieut., afterwards Capt. Champlin, U. S. N. His thigh bone was shattered by a ball in this fight, making him a cripple for life. The Tigress was manned by 30 men, the Scorpion by 32, exclusive of officers; British complement in boats, 100 men.

643. Lieut. Miller Worsley, Royal Navy, succeeded Lieut. Poyntz. For the capture of the Scorpion and Tigress he was made commander July 13, 1815. He died May 2, 1835.

644. All the supplies invoiced on this and succeeding pages reached Mackinac without interference. The capture of the Tigress and Scorpion, and the use made of those prizes, cleared Lake Huron. At the time of the capture of the two vessels named, the garrison at Mackinac had not more than two weeks provisions in store.

669. The people mentioned were settlers. As the district had been under control of the British for two years past the Indian depredators were probably attached to the British cause; some of them may have been of the western tribes who, owing to the scarcity of provisions and other goods at Mackinac, could not be supplied by the agents from the stores at that fort.

670. Joseph Jourdain, a descendant of Jean Baptiste Jourdain, one of the early settlers of Green Bay, was quite prominent in the affairs of the early times.

670. The note, p. 674, at the close of the long statement of losses for horses, oxen, cows, calves and hogs, allowed the settlers at Green Bay in compensation for the depredations of Indians, shows that the pound in currency was calculated at four dollars; the shilling at twenty cents, and the penny at 1# cents.

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On this basis the animals were valued as follows, omitting fractions of a cent:

Horses each $41.67

Colts of 2½ years “ 25.00

Colts of 1 year “ 12.00

Cows “ 66.67

Draft oxen “ 83.33

Young oxen of 2 years “ 41.67

Bulls “ 41.67

Hogs, large “ 25.00

Hogs, middling “ 12.50

Hogs, small “ 3.33

All of which gives a good idea of the value of domestic animals in the Green Bay region in the year 1814.

674. Andre Lachaise, probably LaChaine, or LaChesne, whose marriage to Susanne Hirebour was celebrated at Mackinac, January 28, 1799, by Adhemar St. Martin, justice of the peace, according to the records of St. Anne's parish church at that place.

678. Refers to Gen. McArthur's raid. Left Detroit late in October with 750 mounted men and 5 field pieces. Crossed the St. Clair from the American side to (probably) Port. Lambton. Advanced through Baldoon, Moravian Town, Oxford, Brantford, intending to go to Burlington, but finding that Izard, who was to march toward Drummond, had given up the plan to evacuate Canada, McArthur turned south to Dover, and thence back via. St. Thomas and the Thames valley to Sandwich, where he arrived November 17, 1814.

685. Sir George Prevost's observations in the communication referred to by Gen. Drummond cannot be conjectured. The army under his personal command had suffered a defeat at Plattsburg 11th of September, 1814. Possibly he wished to even up that loss by some striking success in the direction of Detroit. A popular balled ballad of those days usually sung in the theatres in the character of a negro in soldier's uniform, relates Prevost's misfortunes in this wise:

“Probose scare so, he lef' all behine, Powder, ball, cannon, tea-pot and kittle: An' Gin'ral Macomb start ole Probose home— To't me soul, den, I muss die a-laffin.”

686. The treaty of peace and amity was signed at Ghent, December 24, 1814. Earl Bathurst, as this extract, shows, communicated its provisions without delay to Gen. Prevost. The articles about Indians were reciprocal, each power to stop hostilities with all tribes or nations, with whom they may have been at war at the time of the ratification of the treaty, and to restore to the tribes or nations respectively all the rights, possessions and privileges which they may have enjoyed or been entitled in 1811 previous to such hostilities. The treaty was ratified at Washington, February 18, 1815.

687. The value of this change of designation is apparent, important in a diplomatic sense, to establish a precedent favorable to the British view of the status of its allies.

687. The war on the borders of Michigan began with a proclamation by Gen. Hull, dated Sandwich, July 13, 1812. Though ended elsewhere it holds on for a while in the upper Mississippi by proclamation of Capt. Bulger. The last battle of the war was Gen. Jackson's victory at New Orleans, 8th, January, 1815, 15 days after the treaty of peace was signed.

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