

WASHINGTON CITY, OCT. 29.

Copies of letters from maj. gen. Van Rensselaer, of the New-York militia, to major gen. Henry Dearborn, transmitted by the latter to the Department of War.

Head Quarters, Lewistown, October 14, 1812.

SIR,

As the movements of the army under my command, since I had left the honour to address you on the 8th inst. have been of a very important character, producing consequences serious to many individuals; establishing facts actually connected with the interest of the service and the safety of the army; and as I stand prominently responsible for some of these consequences, I beg leave to explain to you, sir, and through you to my country, the situation and circumstances in which I have had to act, and the reasons and motives which governed me; and if the result is not all that might have been wished, it is such, that when the whole ground shall be viewed, I shall cheerfully submit myself to the judgment of my country.

In my letter of the 8th inst. I apprised you that a crisis in this campaign was rapidly advancing; and that (to repeat the same words) "the blow must be soon struck, or all the toil and expense of the campaign go for nothing; and worse than nothing, for the whole will be tinged with dishonour."

Under such impressions, I had on the 5th inst. written to brigadier gen. Smyth, of the U. S. forces, requesting an interview with him, maj. gen. Hall, and the commandants of the U. S. regiments, for the purpose of conferring upon the subject of future operations. I wrote maj. gen. Hall to the same purport. On the 11th, I had received no answer from gen. Smyth; but in a note to me of the 10th, gen. Hall mentioned that gen. Smyth had not yet then agreed upon any day for the consultation.

In the meantime, the partial success of lieutenant Elliott, at Black Rock, (of which however I have received no official information) began to excite a strong disposition in the troops to act. This was expressed to me through various channels in the shape of an alternative; that they must have orders to act; or at all hazards they would go home. I forbear here commenting upon the obvious consequences to me, personally, of longer withholding my orders under such circumstances.

I had a conference with — as to the possibility of getting some person to pass over to Canada and obtain correct information. On the morning of the 4th he wrote to me that he had procured the man who bore his letter to go over. Instructions were given him; he passed over—obtained such information as warranted an immediate attack. This was confidentially communicated to several of my first officers, and produced great zeal to act; more especially as it might have a controlling effect upon the movements at Detroit, where it was supposed gen. Brock had gone with all the force he dare spare from the Niagara frontier. The best preparations in my power, were therefore made to dislodge the enemy from the heights at Queenstown, and possess ourselves of the village, where the troops might be sheltered from the disagreeable inclemency of the weather.

Lt. col. Fenwick's flying artillery, and a detachment of regular troops under his command, were ordered to be up in season from Fort Niagara. Orders were also sent to gen. Smyth to send down from Buffalo such detachment of his brigade as existing circumstances in that vicinity might warrant. The attack was to have been made at 4 o'clock in the morning of the 11th, by crossing over in boats from the Old Ferry opposite the heights. To avoid any embarrassment in crossing the river (which is here a sheet of violent eddies) experienced boatmen were procured to take the boats from the landing below to the place of embarkation. Lieutenant Sim was considered the man of greatest skill for this service. He went ahead, and in the extreme darkness, passed the intended place far up the river, and there in a most extraordinary manner, felled his boat to the shore, and abandoned the detachment. In this first boat he had carried nearly every ear which was prepared for all the boats. In this agonizing dilemma, stood officers and men, whose ardour had not been cooled by exposure through the night to one of the most tremendous north-east storms, which continued unabated for 28 hours, and deluged the whole camp. The approach of daylight extinguished every prospect of success, and the detachment returned to camp. Col. Van Rensselaer was to have commanded the detachment.

After this result I had hoped the patience of the troops would have continued until I could submit the plan suggested in my letter of the 8th, that I might act upon and in conformity to the opinion which might be then expressed. But my hope was idle; the previously excited ardour seemed to have gained new heat from the late miscarriage—the brave were mortified to stop short of their object, and the timid thought laurels half won by the attempt.

On the morning of the 12th, such was the pressure upon me from all quarters, that my refusal to act might involve me in suspicion and the service in disgrace.

Viewing affairs at Buffalo as yet unsettled I had immediately countermanded the march of gen. Smyth's brigade, upon the failure of the first expedition; but having now determined to attack Queenstown, I sent new orders to gen. Smyth to march; not with the view of his aid in the attack, for I considered the force detached sufficient, but to support the detachment should the conflict be obstinate and long continued.

Lieut. Col. Christie, who had just arrived at the Four Mile Creek, had late in the night of the first contemplated attack, gallantly offered me his own and his men's service; but he got my permission too late. He now again came forward, had a conference with col. Van Rensselaer, and begged that he might have the honour of a command in the expedition. The arrangement was made. Col. Van Rensselaer was to command one column of 300 militia, and lieutenant colonel Christie a column of the same number of regular troops.

Every precaution was now adopted as to boats, and the most confidential and experienced men to manage them. At an early hour in the night, lieutenant col. Christie marched his detachment by the rear road, from Niagara to camp. At 7, in the evening, lieutenant col. Stranahan's regiment from Niagara Falls—at 8 o'clock, Mead's—and at 9, Lt. Col. Blan's regiment marched from the same place. All were in camp in good season. Agreeably to my orders issued upon this occasion, the two columns were to pass over together, and soon as the heights should be carried, lieutenant colonel Fenwick's flying artillery was to pass over; then major Mullany's detachment of regulars, & the other troops to follow in order.

At dawn of day, the boats were in readiness, and the troops commenced embarking under cover of a commanding battery mounting two eighteen pounders and 2 sixes. The movement was soon discovered, & a brisk fire of musketry was poured from the whole line of the Canada shore. Our battery then opened to sweep the shore; but it was for some minutes, too dark to direct much fire with safety. A brisk cannonade was now opened upon the boats from three different quarters; our battery returned their fire, and occasionally threw grape upon the shore, and was itself served with shells from a small mortar of the enemy's. Col. Scott, of the artillery by hastening his march from Niagara Falls in the night, arrived in season to return the enemy's fire with 2 six pounders.

The boats were somewhat embarrassed with the eddies, as well as with a shower of shot; but col. Van Rensselaer, with about 100 men, soon effected his landing amidst a tremendous fire directed upon him from every point; but to the astonishment of all who witnessed the scene, this van of the column advanced slowly against the fire. It was a serious misfortune to the van, and indeed to the whole expedition, that in a few minutes after landing, col. Van Rensselaer received four wounds—a ball passed through his right thigh, entering just below the hip bone—another shot passed through the same thigh, a little below—the third through the calf of his left leg—and a fourth contused his heel. This was quite a crisis in the expedition. Under so severe a fire it was difficult to form raw troops. By some mismanagement of the boatmen, lieutenant col. Christie did not arrive until some time after this, and was wounded in the hand in passing the river. Col. Van Rensselaer was still able to stand; and with great presence of mind ordered his officers to proceed with rapidity and storm the fort. This service was gallantly performed, and the enemy driven down the hill in every direction. Soon after this, both parties were considerably reinforced, and the conflict was renewed in various places—many of the enemy took shelter behind a stone guard-house, where a piece of ordnance was now briskly served. I ordered the fire of our battery directed upon the guard-house; and it was so effectually done, that with 8 or 10 shot the fire was silenced. The enemy then retreated behind a large store-house; but in a short time the route became general, and the enemy's fire was silenced except from a one gun battery, so far down the river as to be out of the reach of the heavy ordnance, and our light pieces could not silence it. A number of boats passed over unannoyed except from the one silenced gun. For sometime after I had passed over, the victory appeared complete; but in the expectation of further attacks, I was taking measures for fortifying my camp immediately, the direction of this service I committed to Lt. Totten of the engineers. But very soon the enemy were reinforced by a detachment of several hundred Indians from Chippawa—they commenced a furious attack; but were promptly met and routed by the rifle and bayonet. By this time I perceived my troops were embarking but slowly. I passed over immediately to accelerate their movements; but to my utter astonishment, I found that at the very moment when complete victory was in our hands—the ardour of the unengaged troops had entirely subsided. I rode in all directions—urged men by every consideration to pass over—but in vain. Lt. col. Bloom, who had been wounded in action returned, mounted his horse and rode through the camp, as did also judge Peck, who happened to be here, exhorting the companies to proceed—but all in vain.

At this time a large reinforcement from Fort George were discovered coming up the river. As the battery on the hill was considered an important check against their ascending the heights, measures were immediately taken to send them a fresh supply of ammunition, as I had learnt there were only left 20 shot for the 18 pounders. The reinforcements, however, obliqued to the right from the road, and formed a junction with the Indians in the rear of the heights. Finding to my infinite mortification, that no reinforcement would pass over; seeing that another severe conflict must soon commence; and knowing that the brave men on the heights were quite exhausted and nearly out of ammunition, all I could do was to send them a fresh supply of cartridges. At this critical moment I dispatched a note to gen. Wadsworth, acquainting him with our situation—leaving the course to be pursued much to his own judgment—with assurance if he thought best to retreat, I would endeavour to send him as many boats as I could command, and cover his retreat by every fire I could safely make. But the boats were dispersed—many of the boatmen had fled, panic struck—and but few got off. But my note could but little more than have reached gen. Wadsworth, about 4 o'clock, when a most severe and obstinate conflict commenced and continued about half an hour, with a tremendous fire of cannon, flying artillery and musketry. The enemy succeeded in re-possessing their battery and gaining advantage on every side, the brave men who had gained the victory, exhausted of strength and ammunition, and grieved at the unpardonable neglect of their fellow-soldiers, gave up the conflict.

I can only add that the victory was really won; but lost for the want of a small reinforcement. One third part of the idle men might have saved all.

I have been so pressed with the various duties of burying the dead, providing for the wounded, collecting the public property, negotiating an exchange of prisoners, and all the concerns consequent of such a battle, that I have not been able to forward this dispatch at as early an hour as I could have wished. I shall soon forward you another dispatch in which I shall endeavour to point out to you the conduct of some most gallant deserving officers. But I cannot in justice close this without expressing the very great obligation I am under to brigadier gen. Wadsworth, col. Van Rensselaer, col. Scott, Lt. cols. Christie and Fenwick, and captain Gibson. Many others have also behaved most gallantly. As I have reason to believe many of our troops fled to the woods, with the hope of crossing the river, I have not been able to learn the probable number, killed, wounded or prisoners. The slaughter of our troops must have been very considerable. And the enemy have suffered severely.

Gen. Brock, is among their slain, and his aid-de-camp mortally wounded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ST'N VAN RENSSELAER,
Major General.

Maj. Gen. Dearborn.
HEAD QUARTERS,
Lewistown, Oct. 15, 1812.

SIR,
For any further particulars respecting the action; the present situation and movement of our troops; the appearance of the enemy's situation; and our future prospects, generally, I beg leave to refer you to captain Dox, who will have the honour to deliver you this dispatch. Capt. Dox is an intelligent officer, and much reliance may be placed on his information and judgment.

I am, with great respect, &c.
(Signed) ST'N VAN RENSSELAER,
Maj. Gen. Dearborn.

Seasonable Goods.

H G. MUNROE
Has just received, a general assortment of Dry Goods & Groceries, Ironmongery and Stationary, which will be disposed of on accommodating terms.

ALSO,
Loaf & Lump Sugar
At the Factory prices. 4
October 15.

Childs & Shaw,
Have just received, a complete Assortment of Fall & Winter Goods, which they offer for sale on the most accommodating terms.
October 8.

B. CURRAN,
Has received a good supply of Cloths, Coatings, Casimeres, Flannels, Blankets, Stuffs, Irish Linens, and various other Articles in the Dry Good Line, which he will sell low for Cash, and as usual to his Punctual Customers,
October 8.

Land for Sale.
By virtue of a decree of the High Court of Chancery the subscriber will offer to Public Sale, at the Tavern in Queen-Anne, Prince George's county, on Saturday the 14th Next, the next.

That Valuable Farm
On which Zachariah Baldwin formerly resided, situate in that rich and highly improved country known by the name of The Forest of Prince George's. This Farm contains about 200 acres of land of the first quality, has a comfortable brick dwelling-house on it, with a Kitchen, Quarter, &c. attached to it; excellent Apple and Peach Orchards; plenty of fire-wood, and much valuable Timber. It is level, fertile and well watered; the situation remarkably healthy, and the soil adapted to clover and plaster. It contains besides about 15 acres of fine meadow, and the enclosures of the whole are in good repair. In addition to these inducements, it may be stated, that much adjacent lands may be added to it at a price far below its value, so as to form a most desirable establishment for a monied man, on the most reasonable terms. The distance from Queen-Anne, the nearest town, is about seven miles, and from Annapolis and the City of Washington about fourteen.

James Shaw, Trustee.
October 8.

Wanted,
TO HIRE OR PURCHASE,
A good plain Cook—Apply at the Office of the Maryland Gazette.
September 10.

Wanted
TO HIRE, BY THE YEAR,
A NEGRO WOMAN,
who understands House Work, for which a liberal price will be given. Inquire at this Office.
Sept. 17.

To be Rented,
That elegant situation, opposite to the city of Annapolis, adjoining Fort Madison. It contains upwards of 300 acres of excellent land, with oyster shell banks of manure in each field; with three Negro Men. The convenience to one of the best markets, (for the seller,) in the state, is very great. Any person wishing to rent, may apply to Mr. Clements, at Annapolis, or the subscriber at Easton.
David Kerr.
September 10, 1812.

EXCHANGE OF OLD SIX PER CENT AND DEFERRED STOCKS
Pursuant to the act of Congress, entitled, "An act authorising a subscription for the old six per cent. and deferred stocks, and providing for the exchange of the same," passed on the 6th day of July, 1812, books will be opened on the first day of October next, at the Treasury, and at the several loan offices, and will continue open till the 17th day of March next, for receiving subscriptions of the old six per cent. and deferred stocks, in the manner prescribed by the said act. New certificates, bearing interest from the first day of the quarter in which the subscription shall be made, at the rate of six per centum per annum, payable quarter-yearly, for the unredeemed amount of principal of the old six per cent. and deferred stocks which may be subscribed, will be issued at the Treasury or at the Loan Offices respectively where the old stock subscribed may at the time stand credited. The new stock will be redeemable at the pleasure of the United States at any time after the 31st day of December, 1824; but no reimbursement will be made except for the whole amount of the stock standing at the time, to the credit of the proprietor, on the books of the Treasury or of the commissioners of loans respectively, nor till after at least six months previous publication of such intended reimbursement.
Albert Gallatin.
Treasury Department, Sept. 10, 1812.

Land for Sale.
I will sell the plantation on which I now reside, containing about six hundred and fifty acres of valuable land, adapted to farming, & a healthy situation: There is the greatest plenty of wood, such as oak, chestnut, walnut and poplar; it is well watered; a plenty of meadow, of about four acres in clover. This land lies within two miles of Herring Creek Church, five miles from Pig Point, and about the same distance from Herring Bay. It will be divided to suit purchasers, if desired. For terms apply to the subscriber.
Sept. 7, 1812.
Samuel Harrison.

Augustus Uz,
Respectfully informs the Citizens of Annapolis, that at the earnest solicitations of some of the most respectable inhabitants he has made arrangements, and is now enabled, to devote his leisure hours to their benefit and gratification, with his new and elegant mode of
Colouring and Ornamenting Walls,
either in imitation of paper hangings, or otherwise. This so eminently useful invention is too generally known throughout the Union to need any further illustration. Directions, in writing, left at Mr. Jarvis's, on Hill Point, or at Mr. Isaac Parter's Tavern, (where a rough specimen of the work may be seen,) will be strictly attended to, and all necessary information respecting expenses and desirability given.
October 8.

THE
[LXIXth YEAR.

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WASHINGTON CITY, NOV. 4.
The President of the United States this communicated by Mr. Coles his Secretary, the following message to Congress:—
Fellow-citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives,
On our present meeting, it is my first to invite your attention to the Providences which our country has experienced in the unusual degree of health dispensed to its inhabitants, and in the rich abundance with which the earth has rewarded the labours of its husbandmen. In the successful cultivation of other branches of industry, and in the progress of general improvement favourable to the national prosperity, there is just ground for our mutual congratulations and thankfulness.

With these blessings are necessarily mingled, the pressures and vicissitudes incident to the state of war, into which the United States have been forced, by the perseverance of a foreign power, in its system of injustice and aggression.

Previous to its declaration, it was deemed proper, as a measure of precaution and self-defence, that a considerable force should be kept in the Michigan Territory, with a view to its security, and, in the event of such operations in the Uppermost Canada as would intercept the hostile influence of Britain over the savages, obtain the command of the lake on which that part of our borders, and maintain co-operating relations with such forces as might be most conveniently employed against other parts. Brigadier General Hull was charged with this provision, and having under his command a bold and brave corps composed of regulars and volunteers from the State of Ohio. Having received his destination after his knowledge of the war, and possessing discretionary authority to act offensively, he passed into the neighboring territory of the enemy with a prompt and victorious progress. The expedition, nevertheless terminated unfortunately only in a retreat to the town and fort of Detroit, but in the surrender of both, and the gallant corps commanded by that officer. The causes of this painful reverse will be investigated by a military tribunal.

A distinguishing feature in the operations which preceded and followed this adventure, is the use made by the enemy, and merciless savages under their influence, of the benevolent policy of the U. S. in recommending peace and promoting civilization among that wretched portion of the human race; and was making exertions to seduce them from taking either side in the contest. The enemy has not scrupled to call to his ruffianly ferocity, armed with the rors of those instruments of carnage and torture, which are known to spare neither sex. In this outrage against the honourable war, and against the feelings of humanity, the British command cannot resort to a plea of retaliation; it is committed in the face of our exertions. They cannot mitigate it, by calling it a defence against men in arms: for it emulates the most shocking butcheries of defeated nations. Nor can it be pretended that it is not answerable for the atrocities committed; since the savages are employed in a knowledge and even with menaces their fury could not be controlled. Such a spectacle which the deputed authority of a nation, boasting its religion and morality have not been restrained, from presenting to the enlightened age.

The misfortune at Detroit was not, however, without a consoling effect. It was followed by signal proofs, that the nation is not deficient according to the pressure on its resources of an important post, and of the men surrendered with it, inspired every new ardour and determination. In the new districts least remote, it was not known, that every citizen was ready with his arms, at once to protect his brethren against the blood-thirsty savages let loose on an extensive frontier; to convert a partial calamity into a source of vigorous efforts. This patriotic zeal, it was necessary rather to limit than to have embodied an ample force from the States of Kentucky and Ohio, and from Pennsylvania and Virginia. It is with the addition of a few regulars, under the command of brig. gen. Harrison, who possess the entire confidence of his fellow-citizens, among whom are citizens, for their volunteers in the ranks, not less distinguished by their political station, than