

WASHINGTON, AUG 12.  
Copy of a letter from Major General Harrison, to the Secretary of War.

Head-Quarters, Seneca Town,  
August 4, 1813.

SIR,

In my letter of the 1st inst. I did myself the honour to inform you that one of my scouting parties had just returned from the Lake shore, and had discovered the day before the enemy in force near the mouth of the Sandusky Bay. The party had not passed Lower Sandusky 2 hours, before the advance consisting of Indians, appeared before the Fort, and in half an hour after a large detachment of British troops; and in the course of the night they commenced a cannonading against the fort with 3 six pounders and two howitzers; the latter from gun-boats. The firing was partially answered by Maj. Croghan, having a 6-pounder, the only piece of artillery.

The fire of the enemy was continued at intervals during the 2d instant until about half after 5 P. M. when, finding that their cannon made little impression upon the works, and having discovered my position here, and apprehending an attack, an attempt was made to carry the place by storm. Their troops were formed in two columns, lieutenant. Short headed the principal one composed of the light and battalion companies of the 41st reg. This gallant officer conducted his men to the brink of the ditch, under the most galling and destructive fire from the garrison, and leaping into it was followed by a considerable part of his own and the light company; at this moment a masked port hole was suddenly opened, and a 6 pounder with an half load of powder and double charge of leaden stugs, at the distance of 30 feet poured destruction upon them and killed or wounded nearly every man who had entered the ditch. In vain did the British officers exert themselves to lead on the balance of the column; it retired in disorder under a shower of shot from the fort, and sought safety in the adjoining woods. The other column headed by the grenadiers had also retired (after having suffered from the muskets of our men) to an adjacent ravine. In the course of the night, the enemy, with the aid of their Indians drew off the greater part of the wounded and dead, and embarked them in boats, descended the river with the utmost precipitation. In the course of the 2d inst. having heard of the cannonading, I made several attempts to ascertain the force and situation of the enemy; our scouts were unable to get near the fort, from the Indians which surrounded it. Finding however, that the enemy had only light artillery, and being well convinced that it could make light impression upon the works, and that any attempt to storm it would be resisted with effect, I waited for the arrival of 250 mounted volunteers, which on the evening before had left Upper Sandusky. But as soon as I was informed that the enemy were retreating, I set out with the dragoons to endeavour to overtake them, leaving Gens. M'Arthur and Cass to follow with all the infantry (about 700) that could be spared from the protection of the stores and sick at this place. I found it impossible to come up with them. Upon my arrival at Sandusky, I was informed by the prisoners that the enemy's forces consisted of 490 regular troops, and 500 of Dixon's Indians commanded by gen. Proctor in person, and that Tecumseh, with about 2000 warriors, was somewhere in the swamps, between this and Fort Meigs, expecting my advancing, or that of a convoy of provisions. As there was no prospect of doing anything in front, and being apprehensive that Tecumseh might destroy the stores and small detachments in my rear, I sent orders to Gen. Cass, who commanded the reserve, to fall back to this place, and to General M'Arthur with the front line to follow and support him. I remained at Sandusky until the parties that were sent out in every direction had returned; not an enemy was to be seen.

I am sorry that I cannot transmit you Maj. Croghan's official report. He was to have sent it to me this morning, but I have just heard that he was so much exhausted by 36 hours of continued exertion as to be unable to make it. It will not be among the least of Gen. Proctor's mortifications to find that he has been baffled by a youth who has just past his 21st year. He is, however, a hero worthy of his gal-

lant uncle (General George R. Clark.)

Capt. Hunter, of the 17th regiment, the second in command, conducted himself with great propriety, and never were a set of finer young fellows than the subalterns, viz. Lieuts. Johnson and Bayler of the 17th; Anthony of the 24th; Meeks of the 7th, and Ensigns Shipp and Duncan of the 17th.

The following account of the unworthy artifice and conduct of the enemy will excite your indignation—Major Chambers was sent by gen. Proctor, accompanied by col. Elliott, to demand the surrender of the Fort. They were met by Ensign Shipp. The Major observed that gen. Proctor had a number of cannon, a large body of Regular Troops, and so many Indians whom it was impossible to controul; and if the Fort was taken, as it must be, the whole of the garrison would be massacred.

Mr. Shipp answered, that it was the determination of Major Croghan, his officers and men, to defend the garrison, or be buried in it; and that they might do their best. Col. Elliott then addressed Mr. Shipp and said, you are a fine young man; I pity your situation; for God's sake surrender, and prevent the dreadful slaughter that must follow resistance. Shipp turned from him with indignation, and was immediately taken hold of by an Indian, who attempted to wrest his sword from him. Elliot pretended to exert himself to release him, and expressed great anxiety to get him safe in the fort.

I have the honor to enclose you a copy of the first not received from Major Croghan. It was written before day; and it has since been ascertained, that of the enemy there remained in the ditch one lieutenant-colonel, one lieutenant and 25 privates: the number of prisoners, 1 sergeant and 25 privates—14 of them badly wounded; every care has been taken of the latter, and the officers buried with the honors due to their rank and bravery. All the dead that were not in the ditch were taken off in the night by the Indians. It is impossible, from the circumstances of the attack that they should have lost less than one hundred. Some of the prisoners think that it amounted to two hundred. A young gentleman, a private in the Petersburg volunteers, of the name of Brown, assisted by 5 or 6 of that company and of the Pittsburg Blues who were accidentally in the fort, managed the six pounder which produced such destruction in the ranks of the enemy.

I have the honor to be, &c.

WILLIAM H. HARRISON.

B. Of our few wounded men there is but one that will not be well in less than six days.

(Major Croghan's note.)

(COPY.)

Lower Sandusky, Aug. 3, 1813.

Dear Sir,

The enemy made an attempt to storm us last evening, but was repulsed with the loss of at least 100 killed, wounded and prisoners. One lieutenant colonel (lieut. col. Short) a major and a lieutenant with about 40 privates, are dead in our ditch. I have lost but one killed, and but few wounded. Further statements will be made by the bearer.

GEO. CROGHAN, Maj. Comdg. Ft. Sandusky.

N. B. Since writing the above, two soldiers of the 41st regiment have got in, who state that the enemy have retreated. In fact, one of their gun-boats is within three hundred yards of our works, said to be loaded with camp equipage, &c. which they in their hurry, have left.

GEO. CROGHAN.

From Gen. Harrison to the Secretary of War.

Head-quarters, Seneca Town,  
5th Aug. 1813—6 o'clock, A. M.  
I have the honor to enclose you Major Croghan's report of the attack upon his fort, which has this moment come to hand. Fortunately the mail has not closed.

With great respect,

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your humble servant,  
WM. HENRY HARRISON.

(COPY.)

Lower Sandusky, Aug. 5, 1813.

Dear Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that the combined force of the enemy, amounting to at least 500 regulars and seven or eight hundred Indians, under the immediate command of General Proctor, made its appearance before this place, early on Sunday evening last, and to soon as the General made such disposition of his troops as would cut off my retreat

should I be disposed to make one, he sent Colonel Elliott, accompanied by Maj. Chambers, with a flag to demand the surrender of the fort, as he was anxious to spare the effusion of blood, which he should probably not have in his power to do should he be reduced to the necessity of taking the place by storm. My answer to the summons was that I was determined to defend the place to the last extremity, and that no force however large, should induce me to surrender it. So soon as the flag had returned, a brisk fire was opened upon us from the gun boat in the river, and from a 5 1-2 inch howitzer on shore, which was kept up with little intermission throughout the night.

At an early hour the next morning, three sixes (which had been placed during the night within 250 yards of the pickets) began to play upon us but with little effect. About 4 o'clock P. M. discovering that the fire from all his guns was concentrated against the north western angle of the fort, and became confident that his object was to make a breach, and attempt to storm the works at that point, I therefore ordered out as many men as could be employed for the purpose of strengthening that part, which was so effectually secured by means of bags of flour, sand, &c. that the picketing suffered little or no injury; notwithstanding which the enemy, about 500, having formed in close column advanced to assault our works at the expected point, at the same time making two feints on the front of Capt. Hunter's lines. The column which advanced against the north western angle, consisting of about 350 men, was so completely enveloped in smoke as not to be discovered until it had approached within 18 or 20 paces of the lines, but the men being all at their posts and ready to receive it, commenced so heavy and galling a fire as to throw the column a little into confusion; being quickly rallied it advanced to the outer works and began to leap into the ditch. Just at that moment a fire of grape was opened from our 6 pounder (which had been previously arranged so as to rake in that direction) which, together with the musketry threw them into such confusion that they were compelled to retire precipitately to the woods.

During the assault, which lasted about half an hour, an incessant fire was kept up by the enemy's artillery (which consisted of five sixes and a howitzer) but without effect: My whole loss during the siege, was one killed and seven wounded slightly. The loss of the enemy in killed, wounded and prisoners, must exceed one hundred and fifty; one Lieut. Colonel, a Lieutenant and fifty rank and file were found in and about the ditch dead or wounded—Those of the remainder who were not able to escape were taken off during the night by the Indians. Seventy stand of arms, and several brace of pistols have been collected near the works. About three in the morning the enemy sailed down the river, leaving behind them a boat containing clothing and considerable military stores. Too much praise cannot be bestowed on the officers, non-commissioned officers and privates under my command for their gallantry and good conduct during their siege.

Yours with respect,

(Signed) G. CROGHAN,  
Maj. 17th U. S. Inf. Com. L. S.  
Maj. Gen. Harrison.

[The number of men under command of Major Croghan, by whom the enemy were so gallantly repulsed, is not mentioned in the above official account, but by the following letter we learn it was only one hundred and sixty men.]

Extract of a letter from Governor Huntington, to Gideon Granger, Esq. dated

Lower Sandusky, Aug. 4.

"A little before sundown on the 2d inst. the British attempted to carry Fort Stephenson, at Lower Sandusky, by assault, and were repulsed with the loss of about 40 men killed in the ditch, among whom was a Lieut. Col. (Short) and several other officers. About the same number were supposed to be killed while advancing to the attack, besides Indians carried away during the action. Proctor and Elliott were there. Their force estimated at about 400 in uniform, and as many Indians. They retired taking their cannon in their boats. The garrison consisted of 160 men under the command of Major Croghan, and lost but one man killed and 4 or 5 wounded. We have 25 of the enemy prisoners. The mail is waiting."

Copy of a letter from Commodore Chauncey to the Secretary of the Navy.  
U. S. Ship General Pike, at anchor off Niagara, Aug. 4, 1813.

SIR,

After leaving Sackett's Harbour I stretched over for the enemy's shore; and from thence stood up the Lake; the winds being light I did not arrive off this port till the evening of the 27th ult. On the 24th I fell in with the Lady of the Lake on her return to Sackett's Harbour, with prisoners from Fort George. I transferred the prisoners to the Raven and ordered her to Sackett's Harbour. The Lady of the Lake I despatched to Fort George for guides for the head of the Lake.

Gen. Boyd having informed me that the enemy had a considerable deposit of provisions and stores at Burlington Bay, I was determined to attempt their destruction. On the 25th I was joined by the Pert, and on the 27th by the Lady of the Lake, with guides, and Captain Crane's company of artillery, and Col. Scott who had very handsomely volunteered for the service. After conversing with Col. Scott upon the subject, it was thought advisable to take on board 250 infantry, which by the extraordinary exertions of that excellent officer were embarked before 6 o'clock the next morning. The fleet immediately proceeded for the head of the Lake, but owing to light winds and calms we did not arrive at anchorage before the evening of the 29th.

We sent two parties on shore and surprised and took some of the inhabitants, from whom we learned that the enemy had received considerable reinforcements within a day or two, and that his force in regulars was from 600 to 800 men. We however landed the troops and marines and some sailors the next morning and reconnoitred the enemy's position, found him posted upon a peninsula of very high ground and strongly entrenched, and his camp defended by about 8 pieces of cannon. In this situation it was thought not advisable to attack him with a force scarcely half his numbers, and without artillery. We were also deficient in boats, not having a sufficient number to cross the bay with all the troops at the same time.

The men were all re-embarked in the course of the afternoon, and in the evening weighed and stood for York, arrived and anchored in that harbour at about 3 P. M. on the 31st, ran the schooners into the upper harbour, landed the marines and soldiers under the command of Colonel Scott, without opposition, found several hundred barrels of flour and provisions in the public store-house, 5 pieces of cannon, 11 boats and a quantity of shot, shells and other stores, all which were destroyed or brought away.

On the 1st inst. just after having received on board all that the vessels could take, I directed the barracks and public store-houses to be burnt; we then re-embarked the men, and proceeded for this place, where I arrived yesterday. Between 4 and 500 men left York for the head of the Lake 2 days before we arrived there. Some few prisoners were taken, some of whom were paroled, the others have been landed at Fort George.

I have the honour to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ISAAC CHAUNCEY.

MARYLAND GAZETTE.

ANNAPOLIS, THURSDAY, AUG. 19, 1813.

MR. CHEVES.

"While the embargo, lately recommended by the President, was under discussion in the House of Representatives, (says the Spirit of '76) great exertions were made by Mr. Calhoun, Mr. Duval, Mr. Grosvenor, and Mr. Hanson, to arrest its passage. When all expedients and arguments were likely to fail of their intended effect, as a last resort, application, by a respectable member, was made directly to the honorable Mr. Cheves, who had preserved through the debate an unbroken silence, to essay his might to strangle this splanetic and frantic project. His reply was solemn and truly affecting.—Sir, I have no influence in this house. What little I might once have claimed is gone. I have dared to dissent from the course laid down for the government of the majority, and consequently have bartered, for the privilege of thinking for myself, all right and share in prescribing the policy to be pursued. I perceive, and with pain make the confession, that these men, are so predetermined in their course as that the authority of an angel could not arrest the whirlwind of destruction, which their

infatuation has raised; and I trust, God, that in working the ruin of ourselves and this administration, they will not see the ruin of my country."

This language of Mr. Cheves shows that he has not only been egregiously deceived by those hot-headed leaders of democracy, with whom he formerly acted, but that he has discovered from his intercourse with them, that what appear to be their favourite resolutions are subversive of the prosperity, happiness, and even the liberties of the country. It will be recollected, that Mr. Cheves is a man upon whom the strenuous advocates of the present war look only for his talents as a statesman, but for his supposed bigotry to all the extraneous and democratical views, he has had the candour, we may say magnanimity, to avow his opposition to many of their measures, and to stand sanctioned by the reasonable part of things, he has been totally discarded by those willing to proceed all lengths, whether right or wrong, with the administration. He is not the only eminent man who appeared disgusted with the proceedings of the last session of Congress, but there were several others, who by their profound silence, showed that they had lost all influence in the house, by venturing to manifest a spirit of independence. When such men begin to distrust the motives of government, and speak the language of opposition to many of their measures, ought, in some degree, to check the credulity of a people who have placed a blind, implicit confidence in the integrity of their rulers. This opposition was not confined simply to the lower house, but spread among the most distinguished democratic members of the senate. By adhering to a cabinet, when deserted by its ablest props, by all their favourites in the national legislature, evinces an obstinacy of opinion among the people which would baffle the penetrating genius of a philosopher to account for. We can assign no reason for such apparent bigotry on their part, and feel somewhat astonished that after the proceedings of the session of congress, no greater dissentiment of the embargo, which was so earnestly recommended by Madison, no doubt with a view of raising the eastern states, but little has been said in the democratic Gazette. Perhaps the reason of this is, that the utter futility of such measures may have by this time become apparent to their understandings, or because it was opposed by some of the fire-brand members of the house of representatives, and twenty-two out of the thirty-six members of the senate. These editors will doubtless attempt to gloss over such conduct of the administration with the most plausible reasons; but it is utterly impossible that they should long continue to blind the understandings of an enlightened public. They may preach about the necessity of the war, and the purity of those men whom a misguided judgment has placed at the head of our government, yet it will be with difficulty that they impress these sentiments generally upon a people, who have an opportunity of judging for themselves. We know it is with reluctance that they relinquish opinions to which they have been long rivetted, and acknowledge themselves to have been misled, by the artifice of designing men, into the most dangerous errors; yet we believe that those who are guided by rectitude of intention will speak a language, at the next elections, different from what they have hitherto held. This we believe, is from any extraordinary exertions they are making by federalists to introduce a change, but because the virtue of the people will not suffer them to plunge their country into irretrievable ruin when the remedy for all their ills and sufferings is in their own hands.

Mr. Madison, in his paper, seems to indicate the greatest imaginable mistake about the Maryland Election. Scarcely an Intelligence appears, which does not contain either a pathetic address to the people, or some elaborate

discussions nearly tantamount to a sermon, the war-hawks to have no other resource, but to attempt to effect towards introducing a change in the state. That he must feel himself mortified at the revolution of public opinion, which his measures have effected, is easy to be conceived, and why all his anxiety should appear to be confined to this state, it is difficult to conjecture. Judging from what is already transpired, we may soon expect to see some state exhibition got up to amuse the people, and cheat them out of their right senses. "Some optimistic" or "prospect of peace," may soon cut a dashing appearance in that paper, with a view of misleading the people; but they have been too often deceived by tricks of this nature to be easily caught again in the same trap. Exertions, perhaps, were never greater in any country to revolutionize the political sentiments of a people, than are now making in this state by intriguing demagogues; and whatever bribery, corruption, and a gratuitous dissemination of factious news-papers may effect, will doubtless be done by these disappointed leaders of the war party. But we flatter ourselves that the voice of the enlightened citizens of Maryland will be raised to a higher tone of resistance against the war at the next election, than has yet been heard, notwithstanding all the artifices resorted to by Madison, and others, to cajole them into an acquiescence of his measures.

British Squadron.

The present situation of the squadron does not vary materially from the account given in our last, except the two ships that were then lying immediately before the town, have moved up to the main body above Sandy Point. There are different rumours respecting the intention of the Admiral of attacking this place, collected principally from deserters, but these are reports for which great allowances must be made. It is said that a second attack has been made on St. Michaels, but not having yet learnt any of the particulars, we will not vouch for the truth of the report.

Since our last, several valuable acquisitions have been made to the force collected here, for the defence of this city. Among the principal are Capt. Morris of the frigate Adams, who now has the command of both forts, with a large body of his prime sailors; Capt. Miller from Washington with a detachment of marines, and Capt. Gettendanner from Fredericktown with a company of riflemen.

COMMUNICATION.

The editors of the National Intelligencer would confer a very great favour on the people of this country, by publishing a speech of the Hon. Mr. Duval, a member from Kentucky, lately delivered in secret session, on the subject of another embargo. The speech was corrected, as it is said, and sent to them for publication, but for some reason or other it has not yet appeared. There is a very considerable curiosity existing to see this speech, as it is stated to have been in opposition to the favourite restrictive system of our government, and coming from such a quarter it would be read with an additional degree of interest. Should they reject it altogether, it will hardly accord with the professions they have heretofore made in their readiness to publish speeches from both sides of the house.

Appointment by the Gov. and Council of this State.

LUTHER MARRIN, Esq. Chief Justice of the Court of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery of Baltimore county.

From the Portsmouth Oracle.

After a careful examination of Mr. Webster's Resolutions, and of Mr. Madison's Answers to them through his official organ the Secretary of State—after discarding from the latter all that is calculated to draw the mind away from the object of the Resolutions, I find that the substance can be more clearly expressed in the following

PLAIN QUESTIONS

AND

SHORT ANSWERS.

House of Representatives. The first Intelligence given you of the