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Interesting Account.

From the Albany Gazette.

To the politeness Col Solomon Van Rensselaer, we are indebted for the following important and highly interesting letter, from a gentleman of the first respectability at Buffalo, detailing the events which have of late taken place on the Niagara frontier. It will be read with deep interest by every citizen. How is the honorable and proud character of our country tarnished, libel and disgraced.

BUFFALO, Dec. 6, 1812.

Dear Sir,—I ought, previous to this, to have given you a history of events that have occurred on this frontier since you left it. The confused state of our affairs, and the agitation of mind consequent thereon, must be my apology for my delay. But as transactions have lately taken place, which involve the destruction of individual happiness, and vitally affect the interests of the nation, I will now perform the promise I made you, and endeavor to give you a sketch of the most prominent among them.

Nothing was done on the part of General Smyth, which promised a continuance of the campaign, until the 10th of November—when he issued his proclamation calling on the citizens of this State, to volunteer for the purpose of invading Canada. That proclamation you have doubtless seen in the public papers. Of course, I need make no remarks upon it—but will only mention the effects which it produced in this quarter. Some parts of it were deservedly ridiculed by candid men of all parties—and among the friends of those who had anxiously laboured, and who had exposed their lives, to promote the welfare of the union, it excited strong feelings of honest indignation. Not a few however, were ready to believe, that a man who could so barefacedly charge others of being "like desitute" of theory and experience in the art of war, must himself possess both in an eminent degree. About 400 volunteers came in, in consequence of that proclamation, and were organized into a brigade under Gen. P. B. Porter—I was induced, from a concurrence of circumstances, which it is needless to mention, to accept of a post of some importance in that corps—but I shall ever regret, that I engaged in a business, which has terminated in shame and disgrace.

On the 27th another proclamation appeared, which you have also undoubtedly seen. After this, nothing material occurred, until Wednesday the 25th, when we witnessed a scene in this village, similar to the tragedy which was acted at Balanore last July. Mr. Pomeroy, who kept a public house here, had, by some imprudent and unjustifiable expressions, given offence to the volunteer company from Baltimore, and to a number of the Irish Greens from New York and Albany. Pomeroy is a federalist, or in their language a TO. RY—and of course, by men of their principles, or rather, of no principles, would, for the slightest offence, be doomed to proscription. Frequent quarrels had arisen between him and them, and they several times threatened to take a mob like satisfaction upon him. Nothing serious however, was apprehended until the day above mentioned, when, upon some new provocation, their ungovernable fury burst forth. They began by breaking in pieces whatever property of his, they could lay their hands on, and seemed determined not to desist until they should have laid his house in ruins. A number of our citizens (among whom was Mr. Grosvenor) who endeavoured to restrain the fury of the mob, narrowly escaped with their lives. Several officers, used every exertion to quell and disperse them, but without avail. Neither threats nor entreaties were of any use. Captain Allison's company of volunteers was brought forward and ordered to charge upon them. But they appeared unwilling to shed the blood of those, who for some time had lived in the same camp with themselves. The mob seemed conscious that they had nothing to fear from this company, and continued their operations without regarding them. The house at this time was empty, and the men were drawn up before it merely with a design of preventing the villains from entering it. Soon after, Col. McClure, who had been indefatigable in his exertions to restore tranquility, was called away to attend on some important duty, and requested Gen. Porter, who was present, to see if possible, that no farther outrages were committed.

By some mistake or neglect, the guard was removed, and immediately 10 or 12 of the ringleaders entered the house, and began to commit every violence that madness could suggest, while about 30 others stood without, acting as a corps de garde.

The house was three times on fire, and as often extinguished by the exertions of several officers and citizens, who had entered with the mob, for the purpose of saving from destruction the moveable property. Capt. Leonard's company of flying artillery, was at this time, ordered by Col. Porter, of that corps, to clear the house of the mob, and if possible, to do it without shedding blood. On rushing in, they were opposed by the rioters with clubs, or whatever arms their fury could supply.

In the contest which followed, three of the mob were severely wounded; one, since dead, and another, it is thought will soon follow him. Several others were made prisoners, but it was afterwards thought prudent to release them. As soon as captain Leonard's company entered the house, those of the mob who stood without, ran to their camp, seized their arms, and, with increased numbers, were returning with a determination of charging upon those who were suppressing the

riot. Fortunately they were met by capt. Maher, who with much difficulty, prevailed upon them to turn back, under a promise, that on the next morning, they should have satisfaction. Their rage was now directed against Col. Porter, and Capt. Leonard's company, whom they swore to exterminate. The flying artillery kept their encampment guarded, under an expectation of being attacked. The next day was expected to be a day of tumult—but the officers managed to keep things tolerable quiet—and on the 27th, Gen. Smyth issued orders for all hands to prepare for an expedition to Canada—This of course swallowed up every other consideration—and happily we have received no more trouble from the mob.

There are several other circumstances attending this disgraceful affair, which ought not to be passed over in silence. A connexion of Mrs. Pomeroy, who lived in the house, had the night before, given birth to a daughter. The brutality of the mob rendered them totally regardless of her situation. She was carried from the house, or it is not impossible that she might have fallen a victim to their fury. Dr. Blood, who was severely wounded at Detroit, was also in the house; and though he was scarcely able to move, his situation gained him no compassion.

Much property was destroyed, notwithstanding every exertion was made to save it. Mr. Pomeroy fortunately escaped, or there is no doubt that this murder would have been added to the catalogue of other crimes. Thus much for the mob. I will now return to the events of the war; and should be happy were it in my power to relate any thing at which the patriot could rejoice, or in which the citizens could feel an honest pride. But a new accession of ignominy and disgrace has been brought upon our country; and tho' it is painful to relate disasters that flow from pusillanimity and weakness, yet it is necessary that they should be known.

On the 17th Nov. the following general orders were issued.

"Head Quarters, Camp near Buffalo,

November 27th, 1812,

"The men for service in this camp, and those in the vicinity, will cook to-day, two day's provisions, and have in their haversacks at retreat.

"At reveille to-morrow, every soldier will put on his knapsack—shoulder his musket, and prepared for battle, with flints and cartridges, will march to the navy yard on his way to Canada.

"The boats will be ready for embarkation. The tents and sick will be left under the care of guards of invalids until a convenient time."

"Friends of your country! ye who have the will to do—the heart to dare—the moment you wished for has arrived. Think on your country's honor torn—her rights trampled on—her sons enslaved—her children perishing by the hatchet. Be strong—be brave; and let the ruffian power to the British king cease on this continent. (!!!)

ALEXANDER SMYTH,

Brigadier General."

Early on the morning of the 28th, a party of regulars and soldiers were ordered to cross the river, storm the enemies batteries, spike their cannon and return. This was intended to have been effected by surprise; but the boats had scarcely left the shore, when an alarm gun was fired on the opposite side, and the expedition was, for that time, abandoned. But the next morning, between 3 and 4 o'clock, it was carried into effect, and too much praise cannot be bestowed, on the brave fellows who were engaged in it. It was commanded by Capt. King, acting aid to General Smyth, and consisted of about 300, of whom 35 were sailors. All were brave, but these last distinguished themselves in a signal manner. You may form some idea of the courage they displayed, and the dangers they encountered, when informed, that of those 35, only 7 escaped without being killed or wounded, and 2 of those 7 were made prisoners. They fought principally with boarding pikes, with which they made terrible havoc. Three batteries which commanded the river for as many miles, were stormed, and the cannon spiked. A house and barn, containing some public stores, were burnt; about 150 of the enemy are said to have been killed, and 35 taken prisoners, of which last was lieutenant king, of the royal artillery. Our loss in killed and prisoners, was 36, besides a great number wounded. Among the prisoners is Capt. King. This officer might have escaped. After the wished to success had been gained, he went, with a body of troops, who had acted under his immediate command, together with a considerable number of prisoners that he had taken down the place where they had debarked. Here he found that so many of the boats had been taken back, that there were not sufficient left to bring over his own men and the prisoners he had made. He resolved, at all events, that the last should be brought over, and determined to remain, with as many of his own party as could not get into the boats, and meet the fate that might await him, and before a boat could return to his relief, he and his men were taken.

It was expected that at the dawn of day the main army would have gone over and secured the advantages which had thus been gained. Had that been done Upper Canada might possibly have now been in our possession; at least, a disgrace, little inferior to that of Hull, would not have entailed upon our country.

About three o'clock the volunteer corps to which I was attached was ordered to march to the place of embarkation. On arriving we found the light artillery and most of the infantry of the regular army in their boats, and the volunteer corps of

various denominations preparing to embark. The forces that would, at that time, have landed on the Canadian shore were about 1000 regulars; col Swift's regiment consisting of 350 men, colonel McClure's, of 870; the proclamation volunteers, as they are called, near 400 strong, and about 600 of the Pennsylvania brigade under the command of general Tannehill. This brigade contained 2000 men, but no more than the above mentioned number could be prevailed upon to cross. This force was sufficient for our purpose. Every thing wore a favorable aspect. The weather was mild and pleasant. The troops were in excellent spirits, and appeared to anticipate a glorious triumph. Nothing appeared to oppose our landing—not a single cannon to annoy us from the batteries. All expected in a few minutes to see the American standard waving on the hostile shore. But our movements seemed to be paralyzed by some invisible hand. The boats lay in the river upon their oars. The troops began to grow impatient; and confusion, or rather, want of order, prevailed among them. By noon the enemy had mounted other cannon on their batteries, and opened a fire upon the boats, but without effect. Our time was wasted in doing nothing; and at length, about 4 o'clock, p. m. orders were given to retreat.

Thus a fine opportunity for striking an effectual blow was irreparably lost, either through the pusillanimity and cowardice of gen. Smyth, or of some of his principal officers, who are said to have advised him to this extraordinary step. At this time every dark spot of disgrace might have been wiped away. We should have met an inferior force, and that force apparently panic-struck; which is evident from the fact that about ten o'clock, a. m. three sailors crossed over in a boat, remained on the opposite shore near two hours, plundered as much property as they could bring away, set fire to three dwelling houses, which were entirely consumed, and then returned with out the least molestation. The effects of this disgraceful circumstance will, I fear, be yet severely felt by this country. The enemy will derive as much benefit from it as from a host of armed men. Before it took place no doubt many of the inhabitants of that province would willingly have sworn allegiance to the government of the U. S.

But after such a wanton violation of the principles of right and justice, what could be expected but that every man would fly to arms, and, with holy indignation, prepare for vengeance. The friends of gen. Smyth endeavor to screen him from the ignominy of this act by saying that it was never authorized by him. Be this as it may, he was near the shore at the time the boat pushed off, and did not attempt to stop the aggressors, and has not since taken any measures to punish them.

While the boats were lying in the river, and after general Smyth had determined not to cross, he sent a flag over by captain Gibson, to demand the surrender, which he dared not attack; expecting probably that the province would fall, like the walls of Jericho, at the sound of a ram's horn.—The answer returned, was such as might have been expected: "If you want Canada come and take it." Truly Spartan impudence!

The troops were extremely dissatisfied at their being ordered to retreat; and had not gen. S. kept himself out of sight, he would have received many an insult. It was generally believed that no farther attempt would be made; but the next day the following orders appeared:

"HEAD QUARTERS,

Camp near Buffalo, 29th Nov. 1812.

"To-morrow, at 8 o'clock, all the corps of the army will be at the navy yard, ready to embark. The general will be on board. Neither rain, snow or frost will prevent the embarkation. It will be effected with more silence than yesterday—boats will be allotted to the brave volunteers. Fifty men will go in each red boat—forty men in each white boat. A piece of artillery and cannon in each scow, the artillery men, and about 20 men of some other corps.

"Seats will be put in the boats to-day, and oars added to the long boats, each of which will carry 80 or 100 men. Ropes will be provided that boats may take the scows in tow.

"A field officer of each corps will attend to-day to see preparations made, and the boats arranged in order. They will cause seats to be made, and every other preparation. The cavalry will scour the fields from Black Rock to the Bridge, and suffer no idle spectator. While embarking the music will play martial airs—YANKEE DOODLE will be the signal to get under way.

"The regiments will act altogether, but without being scrupulously attentive to keep their places in the line.

"When we pull for the opposite shore every exertion will be made. The landing will be effected in despite of cannon. The whole army has seen that cannon are to be little dreaded. The information brought by capt. Gibson assures us of victory. But the enemy are as brave as we are, and will fight. Hearts of war! to-morrow will be memorable in the annals of the U. States.

ALEXANDER SMYTH,

Brig. Gen. commanding."

After all this vamping it was really expected that general Smyth was in earnest. But what the "information" was which captain Gibson brought, we have not been told; but he has personally assured me that he never told the general any thing which could authorize his assertion. Fresh orders were issued directing the embarkation to take place on Tuesday before the dawn of day. A copy of these orders I have not been able to procure, but you can judge of them from the specimens al-

ready given. A number of officers, and among them myself, expressed our doubts to gen. Smyth as to his real intention of going; but he pledged his honor, as a gentleman and a soldier, that he would go, and confirmed it with an oath.

On Tuesday morning, by 4 o'clock, the troops were again collected at the navy yard. After some delay gen. Smyth appeared, but no marks of energy were discovered in him. Every thing progressed but slowly. At length the day began to dawn—the sound of the bugle was heard from the opposite shore. General Smyth started when he heard it, and in a few minutes after again ordered the troops to embark. (A wag observed, that if the sailors had spiked up the bugle horn, instead of the cannon, they would have done more good; for then gen. Smyth would not have been frightened.)

Thus has terminated the campaign; the army been ordered into winter quarters, and general S. will probably retire to enjoy his well earned laurels. Colonel Swartwout has gone on to Washington with his despatches, and from them we shall probably learn the reason of his extraordinary conduct. Perhaps those who were present labored under an error, but they cried out with one voice that he was a coward. It is impossible to conceive the indignation that agitated the troops when they were a second time ordered to re-land. I really believe that if gen. S. had been seen among the volunteers he would have been sacrificed to their fury. But he prudently kept out of their way—Men began now to think of those whose services they had rewarded with censure; and cried out for a VAN RENSSELAER to lead them. General S. on that morning came to Buffalo, and when he left it, instead of being attended by the good wishes of those who love virtue and patriotism, and who respect courage, he was hooted at by a mob. So great were his fears that on the following night he slept in a soldier's tent within his camp, and those of the regular army were ordered to sleep on their arms, to protect him from the rage of the volunteers.

The disgraceful affair has placed this frontier in a wretched situation. The enemy now know our weakness, and, if so disposed, could harass us without the fear of retaliation. The volunteers are deserting in vast numbers; out of the 2000 Pennsylvania troops, under general Tannehill, only 300 remain!—In addition to all this, sickness is rapidly diminishing the troops. There are not more than 600 effective men in camp. The inhabitants are flying in every direction, and every thing looks gloomy and desolate.

Thus, sir, have I endeavored to give you a correct and impartial statement of the occurrences that appear to me most material. If you should think any part of it worth communicating to the public, you may make what use of this you please.

Be so good as to present my best respects to gen. Van Rensselaer and col. Lovett, and believe me to be, dear sir, your sincere friend and humble servant.

Col. S. VAN RENSSELAER.

Foreign.

MR. CANNING.

On the success of Mr. Canning's election in Liverpool, he was chaired by his partisans, and after being conducted to his hotel he delivered an address from the window to upwards of thirty thousand people, from which are extracted the following passages, being those only which are not of a local nature.

"GENTLEMEN—I congratulate you on your success; for 'tis your victory, and not mine. The contest has been a contest of principles and not of persons, although I should belie my own feelings, if I were not to confess that to the latest hour of my life I should be proud that the battle has been fought in my person, and that my name has been associated with your exertions, and illustrated by your triumph. It is you, gentlemen, who have done me the honor to select me, not, undoubtedly, for any individual merits of my own, (I know I can pretend to none) but, in order that by returning me to represent your opinions in parliament, you might vindicate the freedom of your choice, the loyalty of your principles, and the consistency of your character.

"The hon. gentleman who left your hustings yesterday, (of whom as an individual I have spoken and mean to speak with the utmost respect) on or about the 16th of June last, proposed in the house of commons a specific concession to America; and pledged himself that if the concession was made, peace would be preserved or restored. By a singular coincidence, on or about the same day on which that motion was made, the declaration of war by America against Great Britain passed the senate of the United States. Oh! but the concession was to heal all! The ministers, whether swayed by the honorable gentleman's eloquence or participating in his expectations, I know not, gave way, and the concession was made. Confident from this triumph, as might naturally be expected, the honorable gentleman, the prophet of American conciliation, presents himself—I ought rather to say by some among you—to be chosen as your representative in parliament. Yesterday he left your town, disappointed of this honorable object; and, by another singular coincidence, the defeat of the prophecy upon which his expectations were founded, is made known here on the very day of the defeat of those expectations; for yesterday the declaration, the tardy declaration of war by this