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Military.

TO THE PUBLIC.

The late descent of the enemy on our frontier, and the horrid outrages committed on our defenceless inhabitants, by the British allies, being laid to my misconduct as commanding officer of the American forces on the frontier, and although my conduct has been approved by the general at war, the commander and chief of this state, and by major general Harrison before his departure, still I deem it a duty which I owe to my own reputation, in order to put a stop to the evil reports, which are propagated against me, without knowing my orders, or the means which I had in my power to execute them, to give a brief statement of my most prominent acts since I have had the honor of so important a command.—On my arrival at Fort George, and previous to the departure of Gen. Wilkinson with his army from that post, I suggested to the general the necessity of marching out against the enemy at Cross Roads and Four Mile Creek; that his army with the addition of my militia, were sufficient to take or destroy all the British forces in that neighborhood, which would leave nothing more for the militia to do than to protect and keep in order the inhabitants of that part of the province, as otherwise our frontier would be liable to be invaded. This proposition, however, was not agreed to; as the general's instructions were of a different nature. The general left with me Col. Scott and 800 regulars who were to remain until I considered my force sufficient to hold the fort without them, when they were to march to Sackett's Harbor.

About the 12th of October the British army commenced their retreat towards the head of the lake, I issued orders for my militia to pursue, which was promptly obeyed. We advanced as far as the Twelve Mile Creek, and within a short distance of the enemy's rear guard, whom Col. Scott sent an express requiring me to return, and said that he would abandon the fort next day, and march with his troops for Sackett's Harbor, and at the same time detained my provision and ammunition waggons which compelled me to abandon the further pursuit of the enemy, and induced them to make a stand on the heights of Burlington. I was then left with about one thousand effective militia in fort George, and two hundred and fifty Indians, a force not more than sufficient in number to garrison the post. On the arrival of Gen. Harrison's army, I was elated with the prospect of uniting our forces, of driving the enemy from Burlington, taking possession of that post, and giving peace to the upper province and our frontier. We were prepared to march in 24 hours, when the arrival of commander Chancery with orders for that excellent officer, General Harrison, to repair immediately with his army to Sackett's Harbor. I remonstrated against his going off, as will be seen in a correspondence between the general and myself; but in vain. By which movement all my expectations were blasted, and I foresaw the consequences, unless a reinforcement was immediately sent out to supply the place of the drafted militia, whose term of service would shortly expire. I considered my force, which had become unmanageable, as then insufficient to go against the enemy. The object of the last expedition to the Twenty Mile Creek, is fully explained in the general order which I issued on my return.

For six weeks before the militia were discharged, I wrote and continued writing, to the secretary at war, the necessity of sending on a detachment of militia or regular troops; that I found it impossible to retain the militia in service one day beyond their term; I also stated, from the best information, the enemy's force. I offered a bounty of two dollars per month, for one or two months, but without effect. Some few of Col. Bloom's regiment took the bounty, and immediately disappeared, and I was compelled to grant a discharge to the militia and volunteers, which left me with about sixty effective regulars of the 21st United States infantry, under captain Rodgers, to garrison fort George. I summoned a council of officers, and put the question—Is this fort tenable with the present number of men? They unanimously gave it as their opinion that it would be madness in the extreme to pretend to hold it, and recommended its evacuation immediately, as the enemy's advance was then within eight miles. I accordingly gave orders for all the arms, ammunition and public stores of every description to be sent across the river, which was principally effected, though the enemy advanced so rapidly, that ten of our men were made prisoners; and ordered the town of Newark to be burnt. This act however distressing to the inhabitants, and to my feelings, was by an order of the secretary at war, and I believe at the same time proper. The inhabitants had twelve hours notice to remove their effects, and such as chose to come across the river were provided with all the necessaries of life.

Left captain Leonard in the command of fort Niagara with about 160 effective regulars, and pointed out verbally and particularly in a general order how he should prepare for an attack

which would certainly take place. I stationed colonel Griever's artillery, consisting of about eighty men with two pieces of artillery at Lewistown, under the command of major Bennet, and made them a present of 400 dollars for volunteering their services three weeks—but, before that place was attacked they nearly all deserted, excepting the officers who bravely defended themselves, and cut their way through the savages. The Canadian volunteers, about 40 in number, under major Mallory, an officer of great merit, I stationed at Schlosser, and went myself to Buffalo, to provide for the safety of that place and Black Rock, which I trust is out of danger, having called out the militia of Niagara en masse.

The public are now in possession of some of the leading facts, which have governed my conduct, in the discharge of the trust assigned me; and I appeal to the candor of every dispassionate man to determine, with what justice my feelings as a citizen and pride as a soldier, have been wounded and my character aspersed. If insubordination to the orders of superiors is justifiable, then, possibly, I may have failed in my defence. If to have suppressed the risings of mutiny, is reprehensible, then, also, am I not justified. If to have enforced the disciplinary laws of a camp, is a proceeding unwarranted, then have I been in error. But, fellow-citizens, I do not think so meanly of you, as to credit the monstrous supposition, that you will deliberately advocate such strange hypothesis.—Your prejudices against me, have been the result of feelings misled by the arts of my enemies, and not the result of your sober judgment, operating upon facts and principles. Those facts are now before you. On these facts, judge me in your candor, and I will abide the decision.

GEO. M'CLURE.

GENERAL ORDERS.

Head-Quarters, Newark, Dec. 30, 1813.

The general commanding feels it to be a duty due to himself, and to his patriotic troops, to develop to them his views and feelings as regards their late excursion, and what may yet be expected from them. Those who have rendered willing obedience to orders, by turning out at this inclement season and pursuing the march, till it was deemed necessary to return, are entitled to the general's thanks, and what is a richer reward to them, the thanks of their country. The general cannot, however, withhold his censure from those who, without cause, refused to join in the expedition; nor from those still more inexcusable, who made a pretence of patriotism, by going with him a part of the way and then deserting their ranks.

At this season of the year it would have been rashness in the extreme to have attempted, with one thousand men, to dislodge twice our numbers from a strongly fortified position, which nature has rendered still more impregnable.—Such was not the expectation of the general nor of his principal officers—he never intended to expose the brave troops who went with him to certain disaster; to have forfeited the security of our frontier inhabitants; and most probably lost the possession of Fort George, by attempting that which was, under all circumstances, physically impossible.

There were other objects in view worthy the expedition, which the general trusts have been in part accomplished; one, in particular, not proper to mention. The citizens of Canada, who look to us for protection, have seen once more, that you are not afraid to march into the interior of their country.

Upwards of 400 bbls. of flour have been secured at the Twenty and on this side; and it is nearly certain that the enemy have drawn up all their force from York to receive us, and consequently left Kingston more liable to capture, should it be attempted by our northern army. It may not also at this time be improper to state, that Gen. Peter B. Porter has been authorized to command an expedition against

It was therefore important that the attention of the British should be drawn off also from that quarter.

The general has no doubt but the troops might have advanced farther with perfect safety, and it would have been his pride to have advanced with them, had there been any advantage to gain by it; but there was none. It is certain that the roads were cut up in such a manner, and obstructed by fallen timber, that the cannon could not have been gotten along. The enemy's force was increasing, whilst ours was growing less. The opinions and advice of every colonel, and nearly all the principal officers of the different regiments and corps, were reasons which imperatively bound the general to acquiesce in the necessity of returning.

The militia will soon be discharged. In the mean time they may yet have an opportunity of meeting the enemy on equal grounds. Be always prepared, and ready to meet them. You will by that means strengthen your claims upon the gratitude of your country, by nobly volunteering to defend a garrison which our regular army was on the point of evacuating and giving up to the British army without a struggle.

The general cannot conclude this order without addressing a few words to the independent and enterprising volunteers who form so respectable a part of his command. Their promptitude in obeying the call of their country; their willingness to be engaged in enterprises of the most dangerous description; the sacrifices they have made on the altar of patriotism, define the character of freemen and Americans, who will never shrink in the hour of danger from defending the standard which has been consecrated by the deeds of their forefathers.

Although there are doubtless some whose business requires their immediate return to their homes, the general yet flatters himself there are many who will consent to remain on this frontier for a farther term of service—the situation of this garrison will be truly precarious, if left to be defended by a small force. The general therefore, invites the further co-operation, for a short time, of all those whose domestic concerns are not of too urgent a nature, in a cause which involves the security of their persons, the protection of their rights, and the honor of their country.

GENERAL ORDERS.

Head-Quarters, Fort Niagara, Dec. 12, 1813.

Captain Leonard will, as soon as possible, have a proportion of hand-grenades in the different block-houses, and give directions to the officers of the infantry where they should be posted with their men, in case of an attack—and should they not be able to maintain the out-works, to repair to the block and mess houses, and have every thing arranged in such a manner as though he expected an immediate attack.

Much is expected of captain Leonard from his long experience and knowledge of duty; and the general feels confident he will be well supported by captain Loomas of the artillery, as well as the officers of the infantry.

By order of brig. gen. Geo. M'Clure,

DAVID FRASER, Lt. 15th U. S. Inf. and Vol. A. de camp.

GENERAL ORDERS.

Head-Quarters, Fort Niagara, Dec. 13, 1813.

The contractor will deposit in Fort Niagara immediately, one month's provision for three hundred men, and keep good that deposit. He will provide and issue at the following places:

At Lewistown, say for	500 men,
At Schlosser,	200 men,
At Buffalo,	100 men for one month.

The commanding officers at the different stations will sign returns.

By order of Gen. M'Clure,
JOHN A. RODGERS, Capt. 21st Inf. act. ad de-Camp.

WASHINGTON, JAN. 10.

Copy of a letter from General M'Clure, of the New-York state troops, to the Secretary of War.

Head-Quarters, Buffalo, Dec. 22, 1813.

Sir—I regret to be under the necessity of announcing to you the mortifying intelligence of the loss of fort Niagara. On the morning of the 19th inst. about 1 o'clock, the enemy crossed the river at the Five-mile Meadows in great force, consisting of regulars and Indians, who made their way undiscovered to the garrison, which from the most correct information I can collect, was completely surprised. Our men were nearly all asleep in their tents; the enemy rushed in and made a most horrid slaughter. Such as escaped the fury of the first onset, retired to the old mess-house, where they kept up a destructive fire on the enemy, until a want of ammunition compelled them to surrender. Although our force was very inferior and comparatively small indeed, I am induced to think that the disaster is not attributable to any want of troops, but to gross neglect in the commanding officer of the fort, Capt. Leonard, in not preparing, being ready, and looking out for the expected attack.

I have not been able to ascertain correctly the number of killed and wounded. About 20 regulars have escaped out of the fort—some badly wounded. Lieut. Peck, 24th regt. is killed, and it is said three others.

You will perceive, sir, by the enclosed general orders, that I apprehended an attack, and made the necessary arrangements to meet it, but have reason to believe, from information received by those who have made their escape, that the commandant did not in any respect comply with those orders.

On the same morning a detachment of militia, under major Bennet, stationed at Lewistown Heights, was attacked by a party of savages; but the major and his little corps, by making a desperate charge, effected their retreat after being surrounded by several hundred, with the loss of six or eight, who doubtless were killed; among whom were two sons of Capt. Jones, Indian interpreter. The villages of Youngtown, Lewistown, Manchester, and the Indian Tuscarora village, were reduced to ashes, and the offensive inhabitants who could not escape, were, without age or sex, inhumanly butchered by savages headed by British officers painted. A British officer who is taken prisoner avows that many small children were murdered by their Indians. Maj. Mallory, who was stationed at Schlosser, with about 40 Canadian volunteers, advanced to Lewistown Heights, and compelled the advanced guard of the enemy to fall back to the foot of the mountain. The major is a meritorious officer—he fought the enemy two days, and contended every inch of ground to the Tautawanty Creek. In these actions Lt. Lowe, 23d regt. U. S. army, and 8 of the Canadian volunteers were killed. I had myself three days previous to the attack on the Niagara, left it with a view of providing for the defence of this place, Black Rock, and the other villages on this frontier. I came here without troops, and have called out the militia of Genessee, Niagara and Chatauge counties en masse.

This place was thought to be in most imminent danger, as well as the shipping, but I have no doubt is now perfectly secure. Volunteers are coming in great numbers; they are, however a species of troops that cannot be expected to

continue in service for a long time. In a few days, one thousand detached militia, lately drafted, will be on.

I have the honor to be, &c.

GEO. M'CLURE,
Brig. Gen. Commanding

Hon. John Armstrong,
Secretary of War.

Extract of a second letter from Gen. M'Clure to the Secretary at War.

BATAVIA, Dec. 25, 1813.

It is a notorious fact that the night on which Fort Niagara was captured, Captain Leonard left the fort about 11 o'clock, P. M. I am assured that he has since given himself up to the enemy and that he and his family are now on the Canadian side of the strait.

Congress.

In the debate in the House of Representatives on the 7th inst. on the amendment of the Senate to the bill making certain partial appropriations for the year 1814.

Mr. EPPEs observed, that he was glad that the eyes and ears had been called, that he wished the people of this country to see who they were who were opposed to making appropriations for the navy. That navy, whose gallant exploits had covered them with so much glory, and for which an unanimous vote of thanks had been given. He had heard from a certain quarter of the union talk about stopping the wheels of government; it now remained to be seen who they were who hesitated to appropriate money for the support of the navy.

Mr. SHEFFER said, he had not intended to have taken part in the debate, and should have said nothing but for the observations of the gentleman last up, (Mr. Eppe's.) That gentleman had attributed to the minority, who intended to vote against the amendment, motives which he defested; he had charged them with being unfriendly to the navy, and a wish to stop the wheels of government. He was a friend to the navy, but opposed to the amendment upon constitutional principles, and he would repel any charge made against him, as one of the minority, of endeavoring to embarrass the government.

Mr. EPPEs explained; he said he had not intended to impeach the motives of any member or any party, that it was known he was as little in the habit of so doing as any gentleman in the house. In the observations he had made, he had not attributed any such motives to any gentleman or party in the house, as the gentleman supposed.

Mr. SHEFFER said his ears must have much deceived him if the gentleman had not made the insinuation which he before mentioned; he repeated that he was as friendly as any man to a navy, but he should vote against the amendment, because the estimates had not been laid before the house. If they established this principle, they might be called on to make the general appropriation without the estimates.

Mr. WEBSTER observed, that he understood the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Eppe's) to say that he was glad the eyes and ears had been called, in order that the people might see who were against making appropriations for the navy. He should be glad to know what inference the gentleman meant should be drawn from his observations. If, said Mr. Webster, he means that an inference should be drawn that those members who shall vote against the amendment are unfriendly to the navy—I rise to repel the inference. I am as much a friend to the navy as any man—a friend of long standing—I am associated with a party who are the firm friends of the navy—Friends not of yesterday's growth. Their friendship originated with the institution of the government. The navy is of their own creation.—They alone have cherished it, and they will cling to it, because they believe it material for the safety of their country. They are not to be charged with being unfriendly to the navy, by those who never were its friends until lately. The navy is entirely of their make, and it has never received any acquisition since it went from their hands. I shall vote against the amendment for the reasons stated by my friends, because there is no estimate before the house. We are called on to establish this precedent upon the plea of necessity, when we have no proof that any necessity exists. We ought not, as guardians of the people's money, to loose the purse strings without knowing what for; and the vote which I shall give, will be in accordance with the true principles of our government.

Mr. ALSTON observed, that as the gentleman had said that the federalists were the friends of the navy, and as he had seen much said on the subject in the newspapers, he would state that the act for the reduction of the navy passed during the federal administration.

Mr. WEBSTER replied, that the vessels sold under the authority of the act to which the gentleman alluded, were vessels which had been purchased from the merchant service, and which were found unfit for permanent use; they were directed to be sold, and the money arising from the sale was laid out in the purchase of materials for the building of six seventy-four gun ships, and that the seventy-fours now building were building with the material so purchased.

Dr. BOWEN,

INFORMS the inhabitants of that part of Cumberland County, in the vicinity of Averaborough, that he has commenced the practice of Medicine, Surgery and Midwifery in that place. He resides at Mr. Drayton's in Averaborough.

Dec. 31—5