



"Ours are the plans of fair, delightful Peace,
"Unwarped by party rage, to live like Brothers."

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 1813.

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GENERAL SMYTH.

The following is Gen'l Smyth's own account of the failure of the expedition into Canada.

HEAD QUARTERS,
Camp, near Buffalo, Dec. 3.

Gentlemen,
Your letter of the 2d December is before me; and I answer it in the following manner:

On the 26th October, I ordered the 20 scows should be prepared for the transportation of artillery and cavalry, and put the carpenters of the army upon that duty.

By the 26th of Nov. 10 scows were completed, & by bringing some from Lake Ontario, above the falls of Niagara, the number was increased to 70.

I had on the 12th Nov. issued an address to the men of N. York, and perhaps 300 had arrived at Buffalo. I presumed that the regular troops, and the volunteers under cols. Swift and McClure, would furnish 2300 men for duty: and of Gen. Tannehill's brigade (from Pennsylvania) reporting a total of 1650, as many as 413 had volunteered to cross into Canada. My orders were to cross with 3000 men at once. I deemed myself ready to fulfil them.

Preparatory thereto, on the night of the 27th of November, I sent over 2 parties, one under Lt. col. Boerstler, the other under captain King, with whom lieutenant Angus, of the navy, at the head of a body of seamen, united. The first was to capture a guard, and destroy a bridge about 5 miles below Fort Erie; the second party were to take and render useless the cannon of the enemy's batteries, and some pieces of light artillery. The first party failed to destroy the bridge; the second, after rendering unserviceable the light artillery, separated by some misapprehension. Lieutenant Angus, the seamen, and a part of the troops, returned, with all the boats; while captain King, captain Morgan, capt. Sproul, lieutenant Houston, and about 60 men, remained. The party, thus reduced, attacked, took, and rendered unserviceable two of the enemy's batteries, captured 34 prisoners, found 2 boats, in which captain King sent the prisoners and about half his party with other officers; he himself remaining with 30 men, whom he could not abandon.

Orders had been given, that all the troops in the neighborhood should march, at reveille, to the place of embarkation. A part of the detachment sent in the night having returned and excited apprehensions, for the residue, about 250 men, under the command of col. Winder, suddenly put off in boats for the opposite shore—a part of this force had landed, when a force deemed superior, with one piece of artillery, was discovered—a retreat was ordered; and col. Winder's detachment suffered a loss of 6 killed and 19 wounded, besides some officers.

The general embarkation commenced as the troops arrived; but this being a first embarkation, the whole of the scows were occupied by about one third of the artillery, while about 800 regular infantry, about 300 twelve months volunteers, under col. Swift, and about 200 of the militia who had volunteered their services for a few days, occupied all the boats that were ready. The troops then embarked, moved up the stream to Black Rock without loss, they were ordered to disembark and dine.

I had received from my commanding general an instruction in the following words—"In all important movements you will, I presume, consider it advisable to consult some of your principal officers." I deemed this equivalent to an order—and the movement important. I called for the field officers of the regulars, and twelve months volunteers embarked. Col. Porter was not found at the moment. These questions were put. Is it expedient now to cross over?—Is the force we have sufficient to conquer the opposite shore?

The first question was decided in the negative by col. Parker, colonel Schuyler, col. Winder, lieutenant colonel Boerstler, lieutenant col. Coles, and Maj. Campbell. Col. Swift of volunteers alone gave an opinion for them crossing over.

The second question was now decided. Col. Parker, col. Schuyler, lieutenant col. Coles, and Maj. Campbell were decidedly of opinion that the force was insufficient. Col. Winder, col. Swift, lieutenant col. Boerstler, and capt. Gilman, deemed the force sufficient.

I determined to postpone crossing over until more complete preparation would enable me to embark the whole force at once, the counsel prescribed by my orders. The next day was spent in such preparation, and the troops were ordered to be again at the place of embarkation at 8 o'clock on the morning of the 30th November. On their arrival they were sent into the adjacent wood, there to build fires and remain until 3 o'clock in the morning of the 1st December; when it was intended to put off two hours before day light so as to avoid the fire of the enemy's cannon in passing the position which it was believed they occupied below, to land above Chippeway, assault that place and if successful, march through Queenston for Fort George. For this expedition the contractor was called on to furnish rations for 2500 men for four days, when it was found he could furnish the pork but not the flour, the deputy quarter-master called for 60 barrels, and got but 35.

The embarkation commenced, but was delayed by circumstances, so as not to be completed until after day light, when it was found the regular infantry, 688 men, the artillery, 177 men, Swift's volunteers, estimated at 230, six companies of federal volunteers, under capt. Collins, Phillips, Allison, Moore, Maher, and Marshall, amounting to 276 men, commanded by lieutenant col. McClure, 100 men of colonel Dobbin's militia, and a few men in a boat, with general P. B. Porter had embarked—the whole, on board amounting, exclusive of officers, to 1465 men, or thereabouts; and it was now two hours later than had been contemplated.

There were some groups of men not yet embarked; they were applied to, requested and ordered by the brigade major to get into the boats;—they did not. The number of these the brigade major estimated at about 150. It was probably greater.

It then became a question whether it was expedient to invade Canada in open day light, with 1500 men, at a point where no reinforcements could be expected for some days. I saw that the number of the regular troops was declining rapidly. I knew that on them chiefly I was to depend.

I called together the officers commanding corps of the regular army. Col. Parker being sick, those present were, col. Porter of the artillery, col. Schuyler, col. Winder, and lieutenant col. Coles.

I put to them this question: Shall we proceed? They unanimously decided that we ought not.

I foresaw that the volunteers who had come out for a few days, would disperse—several of them had on the evening of the 28th, broke their muskets. I foresaw that the number of the regular troops would decrease; the measles, and other diseases, being among them; and they were now in tents in the month of December. I informed the officers that the attempt to invade Canada would not be made until the army was reinforced; directed them to withdraw their troops, and cover them with huts immediately.

You say that on Saturday every obstruction was removed, and that a landing might have been effected "without the loss of a single man." This proves you unacquainted with the occurrences of the day. Colonel Winder, in retiring from the enemy's shore in the morning, lost a tenth part of his force, in killed and wounded.

The enemy shewed no more than 5 or 600 men, as estimated by col. Parker, and one piece of artillery, supposed a nine pounder. That force we no doubt might have overcome, but not without loss: and that, from the great advantage the enemy would have had, might have been considerable.

To recapitulate. My orders were to pass into Canada with 3000 men at once. On the first day of embarkation not more than 1400 men were embarked, of whom 400, that is half of the regular infantry, were exhausted with fatigue, and want of rest. On the second embarkation, only 1500 men were embarked, and these were to have put off immediately, and to have descended the river to a point where reinforcements were not to be expected. On both days, many of the regular troops were men in bad health, who could not have stood one day's march; who although they were on the sick report, were turned out by their ardent officers.

The affair at Queenston, is a caution against relying on crowds who go to the bank of Niagara to look on a battle as on a theatrical exhibition; who, if they are disappointed of the sight, break their muskets—or, if they are without rations for a day, desert.

I have made to you this frank disclosure without admitting your authority to require it, under the impression that you are patriotic and candid men; and that you will not censure me for following the cautious counsels of experience; nor join in the senseless clamor excited against me by an interested man.

I have some reason to believe that the cautious counsel given by the superior officers of my command, was good. From deserters, we learn that 2344 rations are issued daily on the frontiers, on the British side. Capt. King, prisoner at Fort George, writes to an officer thus—"Tell our friends to take better care of themselves than it appears I have done."

I am, gentlemen, with great respect,
Your most obedient,

ALEXANDER SMYTH,
Brigadier General.

To Messrs. George McClure, Lewis Birdsall, John Griffin and William B. Rochester, a Committee from the patriotic Citizens of the Western Counties of New-York.

P. S.—It will be observed that the force ready could be no otherwise ascertained than by an actual embarkation—it being uncertain what portion of the volunteer force would embark.

* Six hundred of General Tannehill's brigade deserted in twenty-four hours. A Court Martial of this brigade have fined a man twelve and a half Cents for the crime of desertion!!

From the Knoxville Gazette.

EAST TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS.

Agreeable to the plan proposed by Col. John Williams, to raise a corps of volunteers to be employed on the Southern frontier, about forty or fifty active and enterprising men assembled at this place on Tuesday last, and pitched their camp about half a mile from town, preferring at once to enter on the character of soldiers, though the weather was bad, to accepting the invitations which every citizen was solicitous to offer. They were visited at their encampment by the farmers of the neighborhood, with tenders of provision and forage for themselves and horses. On Friday morning, their number having increased to one hundred and fifty, they took up their line of march by the Warm Springs and Buncombe court house, North-Carolina, for St. Mary's in Georgia, where it is their intention to offer their services to the commanding officer. It is ascertained that their number will exceed two hundred before they pass the bounds of the state, as many are hastening preparations to follow and join the detachment. A finer looking company of men, or a company better armed, equipped and mounted we

have never seen. It is composed principally of the most conspicuous citizens of this section of the country—militia officers from the maj. gen. of this division down to subalterns of companies, members of the Legislature, attorneys at the head of their profession, merchants, and citizens of the first respectability and wealth, are in the ranks,

When it is known that the requisition from this state of 1500 militia men for the defence of the lower country, and two regiments for the northern territories, has been, by the Governor, ordered from West Tennessee, and consequently the probability of a call for men, from this quarter being done away, a proper estimate may be made of the patriotism of those composing this detachment, who have preferred thus to encounter the deprivations of a winter campaign, at the end of a journey of several hundred miles at their own expense, in search of dangers in the service of their country, to remaining at home, in the enjoyment of their families and friends, and the pursuit of their profitable business.

Upon a suggestion that the few enrolled in this corps who were not men of wealth, might suffer from the want of funds the citizens of Knoxville with their characteristic liberality, subscribed & paid into the hands of one of the company, three hundred dollars, to be used for the relief of such as may not have made proper provision for the expense of the campaign.

AMERICA & ALGIERS.

The political situation of the United States with respect to Algiers, and the naval force of that Regency, may be thus summarily stated, from a message of the President to Congress on the subject.

The 17 annuities due from the U. States to the Dey and Regency of Algiers, S. pt. 5 1812, at 21,600 per year, amounted to \$367,200; of which sum the U. States had paid (July 22, 1812) \$351,363—leaving a balance due (reckoning according to the Christian mode of 365 days to a year) on the 5th Sept. 1812, of \$15,837; but which balance the Dey insisted was \$27,000, he computing the 17 years according to the Mahometan calendar, which gives 354 days to a year. The ship Alleghany sent out by the U. States with a cargo of naval and military stores, to discharge the arrearages due in fulfilment of treaty stipulations, arrived at Algiers on the 17th July, 1812; and the Dey and officers expressed entire satisfaction—but when the unloading of the cargo had commenced, the Dey demanded a list of the articles, and became outrageous to find that there was only 50 small bbls. of gunpowder and 4 cables on board—he expecting according to a demand he had made, and of which Mr. Lear, American Consul, had informed government in 1810) 500 quintals of gunpowder, 27 large cables, a quantity of cordage, &c. Mr. Lear was accordingly ordered to depart the 23d July, with all the Americans in Algiers, on board the Alleghany, 7 days after her arrival; and to pay immediately into the Treasury 27,000 Spanish dollars; and in case of refusal the ship to be confiscated, all the Americans in Algiers to be kept as slaves, and warinstantly declared against the United States. Mr. Lear was therefore compelled to raise money at 25 per cent. through Mr. Barci; and having paid it in, was allowed to depart with the ship and cargo, and the Americans. He proceeded to Gibraltar to dispose of the Alleghany's cargo there, to raise a sum towards repaying the money borrowed of Mr. Barci.

Mr. Lear writes, "that the character of the present Dey (Hodge Ali Basha) is that of a severe, obstinate and cruel man;" and adds, "if our small naval force can operate freely in this sea, Algiers will be humbled in the dust."

The Algerine naval force consists of the following vessels:

- 3 frigates (principally old, one new) viz. one of 50 guns and 500 men; one of 46, with 460 men; two of 44, with 460 men; and one of 38, with 400 men,
- Three corvettes, viz. Two of 24 guns each, with 500 men; one of 22, with 250 men.

Two brigs, 22 guns each, 450 men; one Xebec, 20 guns, 200 men; 1 sch'r

of four guns, 40 men; one row galley with 50 men; and six gun-boats (sloop rigged) carrying one 24 pounder and 1 11 inch mortar each; and which sailed on a cruise to the eastward, 13th July, 1812.

BY AUTHORITY.

Laws of the United States.

AN ACT increasing the pay of non-commissioned officers, musicians, privates and others of the army, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That from and after the thirty-first day of December, eighteen hundred and twelve, the monthly pay of the non-commissioned officers, musicians, privates, drivers, bombardiers, matrosses, sappers, miners, artificers, saddlers, farriers and blacksmiths, who have enlisted, or shall hereafter enlist in the service of the United States, shall during the continuance of the war between the United States of America and their territories, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the dependencies thereof, be as follows, to wit: To each sergeant major and quarter master sergeant, twelve dollars; to each sergeant and principal musician, eleven dollars; to each corporal, ten dollars; to each musician, nine dollars; to each private, driver, bombardier, matross, sapper and miner, eight dollars; to each artificer, saddler, farrier and blacksmith, not attached to the quarter master's and ordnance department, thirteen dollars.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That during the continuance of the war with Great-Britain, no non-commissioned officer, musician, private, driver, bombardier, matross, sapper, miner, artificer, saddler, farrier or blacksmith, enlisted in the service of the United States, during his continuance in service shall be arrested, or subject to arrest, or to be taken in execution for any debt contracted before or after enlistment.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That every non-commissioned officer, musician and private who shall, after the promulgation of this act, be recruited in the regular army of the United States, may, at his option, be made at the time of enlistment, engage to serve during the present war with Great Britain, instead of the term of five years; and shall, in case he makes such option be entitled to the same bounty in money and land, and to all other allowances, and be subject to the same rules and regulations, as if he had enlisted for the term of five years.

H. CLAY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
WM. H. CRAWFORD,
President of the Senate, pro tempore
December 12, 1812.—APPROVED,
JAMES MADISON.

An Act making an appropriation to defray expenses incurred or to be incurred under an act, entitled "an act to authorise a detachment from the militia of the United States," and the act entitled "an act for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrections and repel invasions," and to repeal the act now in force for those purposes, passed the twenty-eighth day of February, one thousand seven hundred and ninety five."

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the sum of one million of dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated towards defraying any expense incurred, or to be incurred under an act, entitled "an act to authorise a detachment from the militia of the United States," passed the tenth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and twelve; and also, under an act, entitled "An act for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrections and repel invasions, and to repeal the act now in force for those purposes," passed the twenty-eighth day of February, one thousand seven hundred and ninety five; to be paid out of any monies in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

HENRY CLAY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives,
WM. H. CRAWFORD,
President of the Senate pro tempore,
December 12, 1812.—APPROVED,
JAMES MADISON.

Merchants and others are requested not to credit any person on account of the THESPIAN SOCIETY, without a written Order from the President thereof.

By Order,
T. W. LORRAIN, Sec.
Dec. 24.