

the protection of their rights and the honor of their country.

**GEORGE M'CLURE**

Brigadier General Commanding

**GENERAL ORDERS.**

Head Quarters, Fort Niagara  
Dec. 13, 1813.

Capt. Leonard will, as soon as possible have a proportion of handgrenades 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 tho' he expected an immediate attack.

Much is expected of Capt. Leonard from his long experience and knowledge of duty; and the general feels confident he will be well supported by Captain Loomis of the Artillery, as well as the officers of the Infantry.

By order of General M'Clure,

**DONALD FRASER,**

M. 15th U. S. Inf. and Vol. A. de Camp

**GENERAL ORDERS.**

Head Quarters, Fort Niagara,  
Dec. 15, 1813.

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

At Lewiston, say for 500 men,  
At Schlosser, 200 men,  
At Buffalo, 1000mcn, for one month.

The Commanding officers at the different stations will sign returns.

By order of Gen M'Clure,

**JOHN A. RODGERS,**

Capt. 24th Inf. act. and de Camp.

Copy of a letter from Gen. M'Clure of the New York state troops, to the secretary of war.

Head Quarters, Buffalo  
December 22.

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 4 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 committed a most horrid slaughter. Such was 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 twenty regulars have escaped out of the fort—some badly wounded. Lt. Peck, 34th regiment 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 made their escape, that the commandant did not in any respect comply with those orders.

On the same morning a detachment of militia, under M. J. Bennett, stationed at Lewiston 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 6 or 8, who doubtless were killed; among whom were two sons of Capt. Jones, Indian interpreter. The villages of Youngstown, Lewiston, Manchester, and the Indian Tuscarora village, were reduced to ashes, and the indolent inhabitants who could not escape, were, without regard to 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 Lewiston 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 contained

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, & the other villages on this frontier. I came here without troops; and have called out the militia of Genesee, Niagara and Chatauge counties en masse.

This place was then 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 in great numbers, they are, however, a species of troops that cannot be expected to continue in service for a long time. In few days, 1000 detached militia, lately drafted, will be on.

I have the honor to be, &c.

**GEORGE M'CLURE,**

Brig. Gen. Commanding

Hon. John Armstrong.

**DISTRESSING INTELLIGENCE.**

From the Albany Argus, of Jan. 4.

Extract of a letter from Maj Gen. Hall commanding on the Niagara Frontier to his Excellency Gov. Tompkins, dated Buffalo Dec. 23, 1813.

"On my receiving information of the enemy's crossing the Niagara river, and taking the fort, I immediately set out for that frontier. On my arrival at Batavia, I found a number of volunteers assembled. I tarried there one day to forward them on to the frontier and make arrangements for those who should follow.

"I this day arrived at Buffalo and assumed the command of the troops, being all volunteers, now on the station. The whole number here at Lewiston &c. may amount to 2000 of all descriptions. The enemy have made their appearance off Black Rock and an invasion is to be expected. The troops now out can be kept out but a few days. Those called out on your last requisition cannot all arrive at this place till the middle of this week. The order did not reach me till the evening of the 16th instant.

"Our loss in the capture of Niagara has been immense. What number of brave men have been sacrificed, we have not been able to learn—it must have been great.

"Several inhabitants have been killed at Lewiston, &c. among whom it is not ascertained there are any women or children.

"I have the honor to be &c.

**"AMOS HALL"**

From the Same to the Same, dated

"Head Quarters, Niagara Frontiers,  
Dec. 30, 1813, 7 o'clock P. M.

[Received by Express.]

SIR—I have only time to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th inst. and to add that this frontier is wholly desolate. The British crossed over supported by a strong party of Indians, at a little before day this morning, near Black Rock they were met by the militia under my command with spirit; but overpowered by numbers and discipline of the enemy, the militia gave way and fled on every side; every attempt to rally them was ineffectual. The enemy's purpose was obtained, and the flourishing village of BUFFALO IS LAID IN RUINS. The Niagara frontier now lies open and naked to our enemies. Your judgment will direct you what is most proper in this emergency. I am exhausted with fatigue, and must defer particulars till to-morrow. Many valuable lives are lost.

"I have the honor &c.

**"A HALL, Maj. General."**

Extract of a Letter to the Editor of the Albany Argus, dated Buffalo, December 26.

"On Sunday morning last, the British troops crossed the river about four miles above Fort Niagara.—Two companies of Regulars proceeded and took possession of the Fort, by surprise or treachery, without opposition. The Indians then began their hellish work, by burning the buildings, and plundering, killing and scalping the inhabitants; on the river, and from 6 to 8 miles on the ridge road, they have not left a house or building standing from the fort to Schlosser, except one owned by Mr. Fairbanks, a Federalist of the Boston stamp. On Friday I proceeded with 30 mounted volunteers to Lewiston. The sight we there witnessed was shocking, beyond description: our neighbors were seen lying dead in the fields and roads, some horribly cut and mangled with tomahawks, others eaten by the hogs, which were probably left for the purpose, as they were almost the only animal found alive. It is not entertained how many were killed, as most of the bodies were thrown into the burning houses

and consumed. We found the bodies of Wm. Gardner, deputy sheriff, John M. Low and Ezra St. John (whose families cannot be found) attorneys, Dr. Alford, and six others, whose names I have forgotten.

"We now have about 3000 militia with some Indians; and in 3 days we shall be 5000 strong and all determined to cross."

**ADDITIONAL PARTICULARS.**

The express who arrived on Sunday evening states that Mr. Pomeroy's house, and three or four others at Buffalo, were spared—that a Mrs. Lowrey was murdered by the enemy that Gen. Hall had retreated to the Eleven Mile Creek, and that the British had returned to Black Rock.

The particulars of the capture of Niagara, are variously related; though from the facts stated there can be no doubt, that there was the most reprehensible negligence or treachery on the part of the garrison or its commander. It is stated, that the inhabitants of Youngstown, &c. were on the alert all night expecting the enemy; that rockets were discharged on the American side as signals to the enemy, the Batavia paper adds that the commander left the fort between 12 and one in the morning, and went two miles to his farm; and the Ontario Repository states that on the night of its capture the gate of the fort, for the first time in several years, were left unfastened. The garrison though small, were competent (such were the strength of the works, to defend the post against treble the number that went against it.

The stores, &c. in the arsenal on the ridge road, we understand were all saved.

By private letters which have been received from Erie, dated on the 4th inst. we learn that the fears of the immediate approach of the enemy had in a great measure subsided. By the last information received at that place, from persons sent out to reconnoitre, it appears the enemy do not design to attempt to approach that harbor before the ice on the Lake becomes hard enough to bear them. It is the opinion of every person there that the fleet is perfectly safe; and in addition to the obstacles to their proceeding to Presqu'ile, the enemy, if they attempt to destroy the town according to their late incendiary mode of warfare, will find it defended by a large body of militia, who have repaired thither in a spirited manner for its defence. Many volunteers were on the point of proceeding from Ohio, but were turned back, their services being deemed unnecessary. It is our opinion that both the town and fleet are safe.

Extract dated Canandaigua, Jan. 2.

Information has just reached town, by express, that the enemy are eighteen miles this side of Lewiston, on the Ridge Road, marching towards this place with a force of above 2000, including Indians. Our force consists only of about 4 or 5 hundred effective men. We are almost destitute of ammunition and guns. Our force is at or near Batavia. We are very much alarmed here for the safety of this village.

Albany Jan. 9.

Extract of a letter from Canandaigua dated on the 5th inst.

"We have intelligence from the west later than that in the paper of yesterday, and it will relieve the great anxiety every where excited by the horrid transactions on the lines commencing by the burning of Newark.

Maj. Gen Hall arrived at his house at Bloomfield yesterday.—The enemy re-crossed the Niagara, after destroying Buffalo, without making any further incursions.—Three vessels lying at Buffalo Creek were destroyed, and the enemy yet hold Fort Niagara. The people of Batavia had evacuated the place but are now returning to their homes, as are those who fled from the other exposed towns west.

The following I give as a report, that our intention was to burn Newark, and swore that if such an act was perpetrated, he would retaliate it with interest, however irksome and abhorrent to his feelings.—"I have done it, (says he) and I hope this abominable work is now at an end."

I think it now probable the next object of the enemy will be Detroit, and it is feared our vessels at Erie are not safe.

**CONGRESS.**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Monday, Jan. 10.

Mr. Troup of Geo. from the committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill for filling the ranks of the regular army encouraging enlistments, and authorizing the re-enlistment for longer periods of men whose terms of service are about to expire; and a bill to raise three additional regiments of Riflemen; and a bill authorizing the President to raise for five years or for the war, fourteen of the regiments authorized by the act of January 29, 1813, which bills were severally twice read and committed.

The Speaker laid before the House the following annual report of the state of the finances of the United States; which was read and referred to a committee of Ways and Means.

IN obedience to the directions of the Act supplementary to the act, entitled "An act to establish the Treasury Department," the acting Secretary of the Treasury respectfully submits the following

**REPORTS & ESTIMATES.**

The monies actually received into the Treasury during the year ending on the 30th of September, 1813, have amounted to, viz

Proceeds of the customs, sales of lands, small branches of revenue, and repayments 13,368,042 43

Proceeds of Loans, viz. Loan of eleven millions under the act of 1812 4,337,487 70

Do. of sixteen millions under the act of 1813, 14,488,125

Treasury notes, under the acts of 1812 & 13 3,515,300

37,544,954 98

Making, together with the balance in the Treasury on the 1st of Oct. 1812, which was 3,362,652 69

An aggregate of 39,907,607 62

The payments from the Treasury during the same period, have amounted to, viz.

For civil, diplomatic & miscellaneous expenses both foreign and domestic, 1,705,916 25

Military department, including militia and volunteers, and the Indian department, 18,484,750 42

Navy, including the building of new ships, and the marine corps 6,420,707 20

Public debt On account of interest, 3,120,379 07

Principal repaid, 3,197,102 07

39,907,607 62

And left in the Treasury on the 30th of September last 6,978,752 43

The accounts for the fourth quarter of the year 1813, have not yet been made up at the Treasury, but the receipts and expenditures during that quarter have been nearly as follows:

Receipts from the customs, sales of lands and small branches of revenue, about 3,300,000

Loan of sixteen millions 1,500,000

Do. of seven and a half millions 3,850,000

Treasury notes, 3,680,000

12,330,000

Making, with the balance in the Treasury on the 1st of October, 1813, of 6,978,752 43

An aggregate of about 19,309,000

The disbursements have been

For civil, diplomatic and miscellaneous expenses, about 400,000

Military department, 5,887,747

Naval department 1,248,145

Public debt (of which near six millions was on account of the reimbursement of principal) 7,087,994 95

And leaving in the Treasury, on the 31st Dec. 1813, about 4,685,112 95

19,309,000

Of the sums obtained on loan during the year 1813, and included in the receipt above stated, an account of the terms on which they were made has been laid before Congress, excepting as to the Treasury notes issued under the act of February 25th, 1813, and the loan of seven and a half millions obtained under the authority contained in the act of the 2d of August, 1813. The annexed statement marked F. will show the whole amount received for treasury notes during the year 1813, and at what places they were sold or disposed of.—

Three millions, eight hundred and sixty five thousand, one hundred dollars, of the notes issued under the act of June 30th, 1812, became due in the course of the year 1813, or in the present month of January, and have been paid off, or the funds placed in the hands of the Commissioners of Loans for that purpose.

The papers under the letter C. will show the measures taken under the act of August 2d, 1813, authorising a loan of seven millions, five hundred thousand dollars, and the manner in which that loan was obtained. The terms were 88 dollars and 25 cts in money, for 100 dollars in stock, bearing an interest of six per cent; which is equivalent to a premium of 13 dollars 31 cents and four ninths of a cent on each hundred dollars, in money loaned to the United States. Of this sum of 7,500,000 dollars about 3,850,000 dollars were paid into the Treasury during the year 1813, and the remainder is payable in the months of January and February, 1814.

For the year 1814, the expenditures are now authorized by law, as estimated as follows:

1. Civil, diplomatic and miscellaneous expenses, \$1,700,000

2. Public debt, viz. Interest on the debt existing previous to the war 2,100,000

Do. on the debt contracted since the war, including treasury notes and loan for the year 1814 2,950,000

Reimbursement of principal, including the old six per cent and deferred stocks, temporary loans and treasury notes, 7,450,000

3. Military establishment, estimated by the Secretary of War for a full complement (including rangers, sea fencibles & troops of all descriptions) of 63,422 officers and men, and including ordnance, fortifications and the Indian department, and the permanent appropriations for Indian treaties, and arming and equipping the militia, 24,550,000

4. Navy, estimated for 15,787 officers, seamen and boys, and for 1,869 marmes, and including the service of two 74 gun-ships for 4 months, and three additional frigates for six months of the year 1814, and the expenses of the flotillas on the coast and on the lakes, 6,900,000

Amounting altogether to \$45,350,000

The ways and means already provided by law are as follows:

1. Customs and sales of public lands. The net revenue accruing from the customs during the year 1812, amounted, as will appear by the annexed statements A & B, to 13,142,000 dollars. Of this sum, about 4,300,000 was produced by the additional duties imposed by the act of July 3, 1812. The duties which have accrued during the year 1813, are estimated at 7,000,000 dollars. The customs house bonds outstanding on the 1st of Jan. 1813, after making a due allowance for their solvencies and bad debts, are estimated at 5,500,000 dollars; and it is believed that 6,000,000 dollars may be estimated for the receipt of the customs during the year 1814. The sales of public lands during the year ending Sep. 30, 1813, have amounted to 256,540 acres, and the payments by purchasers to 705,000 dollars. It is estimated that 600,000 dollars will be received into the treasury from this source during the year 1814. The sum therefore, estimated as receivable from customs and lands, is 26,600,000

2. Internal revenues and direct tax. From the credits allowed by law on some of the internal duties, and from the delays incident to the assessment and collection of the direct tax, it is not believed that more ought to be expected to come into the treasury during the year 1814, than the sum of 3,500,000

3. Balance of the loan of seven and a half millions, already contracted for 3,650,000

4. Balance of treasury notes already authorized 1,076,000

5. Of the balance of cash in the treasury on the 31st Dec. last, amounting, as is above stated, to about 4,680,000

There will be required to satisfy appropriations made prior to that day, and then drawn, a least 3,500,000

And leaving applicable to the service of the year 1814, 1,186,000

So that there remains to be provided by loans, the sum of 29,350,000

Although the interest paid upon treasury notes is considerably less than the paid for the monies obtained by the States on funded stock, yet the certainty of their reimbursement at the end of one year, and the facilities they afford for remittances and other commercial operations, have obtained for them a currency which leaves little reason doubt that they may be extended considerably beyond the sum of five millions of dollars, hitherto authorized as annually issued. It will perhaps be eligible to leave to the executive, as was done last year, a discretion as to the amount to be borrowed upon stock upon Treasury notes, that one or the other may be resorted to, within the prescribed limits, as shall be found most advantageous to the U States.

The amount estimated to have been reimbursed of the principal of the public debt during the year ending on the 30th September last, including treasury notes and temporary loans, will appear by the estimate marked D, to have been 3,201,300 dollars. As the payments on account of the loan of sixteen millions have not then been completed, and the stock had, consequently, not been sold therefor, it is not practicable to state with precision the amount added to the public debt during that year, after deducting the above mentioned reimbursement of 3,200,000 dollars, this addition will not fall short of 22,000,000 dollars.

The plan of the finances proposed at the commencement of the war, to make the revenue, during the year of its continuance, equal to the expenses of the peace establishment, and of the interest on the old debt then existing, and on the loans which the war might render necessary, to defray the extraordinary expenses of the war out of the proceeds of loans to be obtained for that purpose.

The expenses of the peace establishment as it existed previous to the commencement of the war, were 18,111,811 eight hundred and