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Camp, French Mills Decr 8th 1813

Dear Sir,

I wrote you from Grenadier Island at the commencement of our late expedition & then promised something more when the campaign ended. I was then in high hopes of being able to write you from Montreal or some other part of his Majesty's dominions but the campaign has ended without having those hopes realized — we have nothing to do but make ourselves comfortable this winter & try again in the spring. To make ourselves comfortable we had to build huts which are nearly done.

Why has the expedition faild? Why was not Kingston & Prescott first reduced? Why did not Genl Hampton cooperate with the Commander in chief? I can easily conceive that these & a thousand similar questions are every day asked by the good citizens who have been anxiously waiting to see these events and are questions which I am as unable to answer as you who are ~~at~~ ~~a~~remote from the scene. It is however understood here that the plan of the expedition was laid by the Secretary of War, & tis said, contrary to the opinion of Genl Wilkerson. I believe the old maxim had better been adhered to (not to leave a strong fort in the rear unreduced). Bonaparte tis true disregards this maxim but Bonaparte moves with such rapidity that an enemy in the rear can do him no injury — we are not habituated to such movements. That of the failure of the expedition I think may fairly be attributed to the delay [illegible] into the St Lawrence [illegible] causes of what no [illegible]

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As I cannot give you any information on the more important points I will endeavor to give you a faithful account of the expedition itself & in doing this I shall be more particular in the circumstances which fell immediately under my observation. The last division of the army left Grenadier Island Nov. & the same day arrived at French Creek — we found that the first division that had arrived at that place had been attacked by a part of the B. fleet and beaten them off by getting on shore a couple of 18 pounders. Two of the enemies schooners suffered

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suffered considerably. On the 5th we were again embarked & the next morning proceeded down the River to Morristown about 5 or 6 miles above Ogdensburgh & Prescott. Here we lay the next day till evening when a part of the troops landed & marched down through Ogdensburgh by land leading the boats, which were doubly manned at the oars, to proceed down by the Fort in the after part of the night. As we passed through Ogdensburgh village the enemy kept up a continual cannonading. Many of their balls & shell were very well directed but did us no damage. When the boats passed in the morning they again kept up a very heavy cannonading to but little effect. One ball only touched us & that killed & wounded three men. In the forenoon of the 8th the boats came ashore at Lisbon at seven miles below Prescott & took on board the troops that marched down. I believe I mentioned before that Col. Macomb had command of the Corps de reserve. This corps was afterwards new organized and called the Corps d'Elite. It was composed of the Rifle corps of about 150 or 200 under Major Forsythe; The Albany Volunteers under Major Herkimer about as strong; a detachment of the 20th Regt. Infy and Richmond Volunteers under Col. Randolph about as strong: and five companies of the 3rd Regt of Artly about 250 or 300 strong under the brave Col. Scott of the 2d Regt Art. who joined us here as a volunteer & obtained this command. The whole commanded by Col. Macomb. This corps instead of a reserve was now to be in advance a kind of standing van guard & were to take the lead in every thing that looked like difficulty or danger. An arduous, dangerous but glorious service had the campaign continued any length of time. The Elite were now ordered to proceed down in advance about 10 or 12 miles & land on the Canada shore about a mile above a battery which was situated on a narrow part of the River — to march down & take the battery. This we accomplished without loss though we were fired on by about two hundred militia previous to our landing. The battery was abandoned by the enemy on our approach. The [illegible] (Novr 9) our army came down & ferried over the Light [illegible] Light [illegible] (Novr 10th) our piquets were attacked at revellie & the Elite were ordered out to support them & on our approach the enemy fled up the River. The Elite, light Dragoons, one company of light artillery & Genl Porter's Brigade the whole under Genl Brown were then ordered to march down towards Cornwall & we started off immediately. We that day reached the plain which was the scene of action of the 11th & there found the remainder of the Army that had proceeded down in boats & there encamped. On the morning of the 11th Genl Brown's command

took up their line of march early & proceeded on till about noon unmolested. At this time we found a bridge broken down & Major Forsythe with his corps were examining the bridge & attempting to repair it when they were fired on from behind a little rising ground on the other side. The Riflemen kept up a scattering fire as they could see an object — Col. Scott with his command immediately proceeded up the creek in quest of the enemy & a fording place. The bushes were thick & retarded our march but we at length found a fording place & crossed — it was a few minutes too late for the enemy just slipt us — had we been ten or fifteen minutes sooner we should have cut off a few hundred of them — The front company however killed one indian & took two or three canadians prisoners. The Riflemen killed & wounded several. Ensign James of the Rifle corps alone pursued a party of six or eight of the enemy, killed one & took one prisoner. He took one prisoner the night we first landed — an officer on horse back who was reconnoitering us — he (James) fired at another officer, wounded him but he rode off we have since heard that he died of his wounds. — The enemy made another stand about a mile below in force from 8 to 12 hundred militia & about 30 indians but a shot from the Riflemen dispersed them into the woods — we then proceeded to within four miles of Cornwall & encamped — The next day marched two miles further & waited for the boats. After we left the army on the morning of the 11th the enemy made their appearance above in gun boats &c. They came down & commenced a fire on a part of the army that lay higher up than the rest. Genl. Boyd & Covington were ordered up with a part of their brigades to dislodge them from their port — this they effected the enemy retreated & threw themselves into a ravine & there made a stand. The enemy then having the advantage [illegible] but the enemy dare not follow them — [illegible] boats & came down. This I believe to be the substance of that affair — You will see in print I presume many particular accounts of it. I was not there so cannot speak from my own knowledge. On the 12th the boats came down where we (the advance) were encamped & on the 13th we embarked & and arrived at this place.

It was no doubt proper to leave Canada at the time we did — without the cooperation of Genl. Hampton

we could not expect to get to Montreal as the enemy in superior force to us was waiting for us at Cote de Lac while ~~we had~~ 2000 men were harrassing us in rear.

The appearance of this sheet warns me to finish — more hereafter — write me soon — yours sincerely

Rufus McIntire

John Holmes Esqr.

A. Crosby has deserted since I have been here I hope he will be arrested if he goes to Sanford

Hon. John Holmes
Counsellor at Law
Alfred York Co
D. Maine

Supm Mchmire
Dec 8. 1813

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I should have written before but have been very busy in building huts &c.

John Hanson is here & in health — He is now ordered a very decent office. I will give you some idea of the Rifle corps hereafter — I lost Isaac Hanson in Canada — when the boat started on the morning of the 11th he had straggled on shore & was left behind & not heard from he was unwell & I left him with the boat