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Batavia, State of N. York, April 13th. 1814

Dear Sir,

Our regiment arrived at this place on the 29th. ult. in excellent health tho' somewhat fatigued by seventeen days marching five of the last of which was thro' the mud and deep. You have probably learned by the publick papers that after we had performed a part of our march we retrograded to Salina - by that retrograde movement I well (our regiment) lost nearly five days. This village is twenty nine miles from Williamsville or (eleven mile creek) where the militia have been stationed & whither a part of our regular force have gone. The 25th Regt Infy have marched towards Lewistown the rest of the Infy that left Sackets Harbor consisting of the 9th 21st & 1 battalion of the 11th have gone to Williamsville. Williamsville is on the road home to Buffalo & eleven miles this side that place. The militia have within two or three days all been discharged. Our regiment is waiting for tents which are expected hourly. We are in no great hurry as probably nothing will be done until our train of Artillery comes up. It left Canandaigua yesterday - Canandaigua is forty nine miles from this place and the roads are so excessively bad that it will not reach this place in less than four days. The road to Williamsville is still worse - the inhabitants say it never was so bad. The distance from Williamsville to Ft. Niagara is over thirty miles so that if operations are to be made against that Fort we cannot commence them in less than three or four weeks. If on the other hand we do not go against Fort Niagara but cross over

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near Black Rock & march down against Fort George (which I am of the opinion would be most advisable) we cannot cross till we have built boats or until the fleet comes down from Erie and I do not think we have here yet sufficient force to attempt to plant the American standard on the enemy's shore. and on the whole I do not think we lose any thing if we remain here a fortnight longer. What will be the plan of operations in this quarter is uncertain. Genl Brown commands & the troops under him were selected by him at Sackets' Harbor. all yankee regiments except one which was raised in N. England & the middle states. Two companies of the 2d Artly & one of the Light Artly are attached to ours. Genl Brown who has been promoted over so many Brigadier Genls I who so much possesses the confidence of the government feels the importance of doing something & he has great confidence in the troops under his command. Brigr Genl Scott so distinguished as a fighting character (& in my opinion the best officer in the whole army of any grade) has joined us & is the only Brigadier present. If it be possible to meet the enemy I know Scott will manage to meet him if he can do it on any thing like equal ground. He expresses the highest confidence in our regiment in particular & assures us that as we shall not all be furnished with pieces of artillery he is anxious to lead that part who will act as Infantry to the charge. The troops under Genl Brown probably at present amount to about two thousand. The enemy have about five hundred men in Fort Niagara & have greatly improved the fort. We can take it I think by laying a regular siege to it but the expence in time, men, & money will in my opinion counterbalance any advantages resulting from the possession of it

In fact I see but little advantage the enemy have in ~~its~~ possession ~~of it~~ 'Tis true it is wounding to the national pride ~~for~~ the enemy to keep it — otherwise it is of but little importance. The enemy command nothing but the bare site of the fort & a mile of plane about it & are dependant for supplies of every kind from the other side. If our army be sufficiently strong to cross & occupy Fort George & Newark, the garrison must capitulate in one fortnight or be starved. Their men desert every opportunity. About ten days ago fourteen deserted from a small detachment they sent out about a mile to destroy a battery up the river. These deserters say that one half their regiment will desert the first opportunity. It is the 100th Regt & have been considered the most loyal of any, & in fact were lately sent ~~into~~ the fort on that account to relieve some troops that appeared less loyal.

There is a report here that the enemy's fleet is out. Three of their vessels were said to be seen from the mouth of Genese river a few days ago — Many well informed people, however, say ~~that~~ it is impossible for them be out so early ~~etc~~

I have heard from Dr. M. Parsons since I arrived here — am informed he is at Erie & is married.

E. Clark has frequently written to me & Col. Macomb & in his last complains of being still unwell. Quere, where is he? I wish him to join me on this frontier as well as some others of my company who obtained furloughs.

Col. Dennis did more mischief at Sackets Harbor last fall in granting furloughs than five recruiting officers could do good in three months —

I wrote you before I left Sackets Harbor & I presume you have recd. the letter ere this.

My respects to all enquiring friends — Mr. Holmes in particular. Yours most respectfully Prefuse Mr. Intire

Hen. J. Holmes

The election in N. Hampshire tho' probably not successfull has proved favorable beyond our expectation. Your speeches in the Massts. Senate are generally read in this part of the country & ~~[illegible]~~ much admired by every friend to his country. They are spoken of in the highest terms of approbation. We waiting anxiously to hear from the Massts. election

Rufus McIntire

April 13. 1814

Batavia N.Y.
April 13th

Mon - Mr John Holmes

Alfred, York Co
Dis. Maine

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