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Sackets Harbor August 1st 1814

Dear Sir,

It is so long since I have heard from Alfred that I will now attempt by a scrawl to provoke you to write me. The newspapers inform of the public affairs at the eastward but I feel equally anxious to hear of the welfare of my friends & of the incidents which take place among them. The last letter I rec'd from you was written in April for which I am obliged to you but should be more so if it had been longer.

Our fleet sailed this morning with a light breeze - destination unknown. They have six weeks provision on board. It consists of the Superior, Mohawk, Pike & Madison, ships; the Sylph, Jones, Jefferson & Oneida brigs; and Lady of the Lake & the Tompkins schooners - the latter is to be used as a bomb ketch or something like that & is manned with Capt. Archer's Co. of Artillery. Capt Archer has the direction of the Tompkins. He is a singular man but has proved himself very brave & is a man of talents. He is a little too fond of new projects & speculations & will either do <u>much</u> or <u>nothing</u>. Commodore Chauncey has so far recovered his health as to go in the fleet tho' he is yet low. His ill health has probably delayed the sailing of the fleet some tho' I am not able to ascertain certainly why it has not sailed before - there seems to be some mystery about it & the officers of the navy have some of them spoken freely on the subject. I fear the enemy have been able to send such reinforcements to the head of the lake that Genl Brown will be compelled to leave the Canada shore without effecting the object of his expedition. The delay

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in the sailing of our fleet must disappoint Genl Brown & I think destroy his calculations of success. We have got information of his late battle wherein Genl Brown & Scott were both severely wounded & you will no doubt get the particulars before this reaches you. The British General Real is our prisoner together with about twenty other officers & nearly 300 prisoners and the enemy's artillery. It appears the battle lasted about six hours when the enemy were driven at all points. It appears Genl Brown was retreating & the enemy by a circuitous movement were attempting to get in his rear but were disappointed & defeated with great loss. Genl Brown had two balls in his thigh but remained on his horse till his army were quietly encamped. Genl Gaines on the rest of the news by express left this post for Browns army where he will command till the recovery of Genl Brown which will be shortly as the wound is flesh only. The battle was fought between Queenstown & Chippewa. I presume this & the battle at Chippewa were the most regular & best fought battles we have had this war & has furnished a fine specimen of of great improvements this season. Genl Brown is a very industrious officer but I consider Genl Scott as the life & soul of that army. Capt Jones of the Artly & assistant Adjutant Genl to that wing of the army I presume has contributed much to their police, discipline &c. Genl Brown knows how to profit by the services of these intelligent men who know how to fight.

Should the fleet sail to the head of the lake which is probable, Sackets Harbor will be much exposed. We have but few regular troops here having nearly all gone to Niagara & Plattsburgh. About 12 or 1500 Militia are ordered in & have partly arrived. Genl Martin commands them & the post. Col. Mitchell commands the regulars consisting of his battalion of Artillery & some dismounted dragoons. Our batteries, redoubts &c are however in good order & if properly supported by Infantry will be able to resist a very large force. If the Militia fight (which will be the first time in this quarter) we can repel any force the enemy can bring against us at present. Kingston is drained of troops & Genl Drummond has

gone up the lake to oppose Genl. Brown. Could our fleet take on board Genl. Brown & army & transport it to Kingston that important post would inevitably fall together with the fleet but I fear the fleet will be too late. There is no probability of our fleet's meeting the enemy's - Sir James will no doubt remain snug in Kingston till this new ship is ready which will be in about two months & will carry 102 guns. A few days since a little bag from Kingston for England was intercepted on the St. Lawrence which gave us very particular information of every thing there. The Officers & Carpenters in their letters to their friends deprecate the service in Canada & complain much of sickness & poor living &c.

The troops at this post are unusually healthy & I understand Genl. Browns army are so also. The season has been very fine for health &c - rather cool & dry and but little fluctuation in the temperature.

I observe by the papers that Eastport is taken & our whole coast threatened by a predatory war. I think that the enemy will not attempt to penetrate the country with 18 or even 30 thousand men but will endeavor to destroy the seaports & shipping. It appears to me that the enemy are determined to pursue this course rather than to make peace & have our shipping rivals & theirs in commerce. A jealousy of us as rivals in commerce has no doubt been the cause of all their depredations & claims upon us & the same jealousy I fear will prevent their making peace at this favorable crisis of their affairs in Europe & yet our peace party are rejoicing at that very crisis!! I hope these ~~lovers~~ admirers & faithful servants of the magnanimous crowned heads of Europe will share the fate of the Cortes of Spain who have been exhausting the treasure & spilling the blood of Spain - not for their liberties but for the interests of their loving master Ferdinand who is now severely chastizing them for their fidelity. A wholesome lesson to these servile lovers of contemptible tyrants. It would be a happy circumstance for

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for our country if our admirers of royal pageantry & rightful sovereigns can be ~~made~~ convinced that magnanimous princes can be ungrateful as well as Republics — Excuse these crude ideas — I was insensibly led to put them on this sheet. Please to write me & give me your opinion of the prospect of peace as well of the affairs about you. Give my respects to Mrs Holmes and all friends

Yours respectfully
Rufus McIntire

Rufus McIntire
August 1. 1814

S. Harbor August 1st

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Hon.ble John Holmes
Counsellor at Law

Alfred (York Co.)
Dis. Maine

P.S. The information I gave respecting W. Parsons marriage was not correct — my informant mistook Dr Parsons for another Dr at the same post who was married there. Parsons is highly spoken of by officers who are acquainted with him.