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Fort Virginia, Sackets Harbor, Sept 21st 1814

Dear Sir,

Having long deferred writing to you in hopes of first receiving a line from you but now despairing of that I will endeavor to extort something from you in your leisure moments. You will have heard all [illegible] from the public prints are this re[illegible] you except perhaps what has transpired [illegible] this vicinity. Our fleet sailed this day having on board Genl Izard & army - destination probably the head of the lake or perhaps Genesse River to re-inforce Genl Brown. The light Artly marched yesterday by land for the Niagara frontier & the Dragoons (dismounted) this day for the same place. I know not the plan of operations, whether simply to join G. Brown or to attack the enemy in rear between Fort George & Burlington I think the former because they are not provided with artillery to act alone. The bad weather delayed the movement two or three days & it still continues to rain. We have had an incessant rain & storm for a week past which has made the roads extremely bad & I fear will delay & injure the final result of the campaign. The enemy are said to be drawing their troops from Little York &c down to Kingston. Whether this be precautionary in anticipation of an attack from Genl Izard or with intent to attack this post is uncertain - probably both. Most of the officers here ~~are~~ strongly expect an attack & we are preparing as tho we were certain of it. Whether they will defer an attack till their

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new ship, (which will mount over one hundred guns) be ready or whether they will come as soon as they hear of the absence of our fleet is uncertain. I am of opinion that, at this season of the year when the weather is so unsteady, they will not venture out ~~till~~ without their line of battle ship especially as she will be ready by the first of October or by the 4 or 5th at farthest. Our fleet will soon return I am not certain but Com. Chauncey will engage the enemy ~~[illegible]~~ notwithstanding the [illegible] at disparity of force. Col. [illegible] Heard of the Militia has arrived this evening & will probably take command of the post. The regular force consists of the battalion of Artz - a battalion of the 13th Infy & small battalion of the 45th Infy in the whole probably about 10 or 1200. The number of Militia I do not know but suppose about as many more - some are volunteers & some the detached militia. We have been constantly on fatigue this summer in throwing up a chain of redoubts around this place & have dignified them with the name of forts. We shall commence tomorrow to entrench the spaces between these works & in a few days the whole place will be completely surrounded with, at least, some show of defence. I do not know what dependence can be placed on the militia but believe they can be made to fight when hemmed in & covered behind pickets &c. At any rate let the enemy come in what force he may he will certainly pay dear for what he gets here. I have not however much confidence in our works & think them radically defective, they being too scattered for the force we have ~~[illegible]~~ - were they more concentrated or indeed only one regular fort with the same number of guns & men ~~[illegible]~~ could be defended against twice the ~~number~~ force that it can at present. The mail which was lately intercepted between Kingston & Niagara contained an order from Sir G. Provost to Genl. Drummond to destroy this place, by siege if necessary, as soon as their fleet could get out or before

if practicable. What alteration may take place in their plans of operations in consequence of Mr Downeaux victory & the defeat of their army before Plattsburgh is uncertain. They have met with another check before Erie which we have just heard of. Genl Brown writes that the enemy had two batteries near him & troubled him much with their shells so much that he was out of patience & was determined to sally out & destroy them. This he effected having destroyed [illegible] magazines, killed & wounded 400 & took 400 prisoners among them 2 officers. His own loss great in officers but trifling in men. Genl Ripley mortally wounded. Col. Gibson & Wood killed - valuable officers. Genl Brown has 3000 militia who have crossed over to Erie - a part of these were in the late sally & did well. Genl Porter was wounded. We have also heard of the repulse of the enemy near Baltimore. We rejoice to hear that militia begin to do their duty & are sorry that those at Hallowell & grand the District of Maine - hope if they attempt Portland or Portsmouth that the militia will retrieve their character.

How does Govr Strong like to be relieved from the burden of governing a part of his territories? I am glad to find that some of his constituents scruples are worn away & that he really believes their is some danger near. The fate of Alexandria has I hope destroyed the delusive expectation that the British army would discriminate between their friends & foes among our citizens. Whatever inveteracy the enemy may shew towards any political party in this country they are too well versed in the knowledge of human nature to place any confidence in or shew any favors to men or parties of men who they cannot [illegible] consider any better than traitors to their own country - Traitors who have resolution sufficient only to declare their wishes & purposes of their hearts but dare not attempt to put them in execution. The incendiary mode of warfare which our pious, honorable & magnanimous

enemy have adopted on the seaboard I hope will be of in-
-calculable benefit to the nation. It will teach our admirers of
the forbearing, humane, generous British that their fatal
delusion has cost their country dear and that it is not only
as patriotic but quite as correct to believe our own rulers,
the men of our choice, have as much honesty, humanity & good
faith as Govr. Strong's boasted bulwark of religion. The
Manner which the enemy make war on the shores of the Chesa-
-peake would almost justify us on our part to make it a war of
extermination - to sacrifice every man who dares put his foot
on our soil & But let it suffice that it will create a national
hatred or at least destroy a too great national partiality which
has unhappily too m[illegible] too long prevailed. Yours &c

Rufus McIntire

Rufus McIntire
22 Sept 1814

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

Rec'd Oct 22

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Give my respect to neighbors & friends especially to Esqr
Laywards & McGoodwins families. Mrs Holmes is ever
entitled ~~to my~~ most respectfully to my recollection. Brad Fa
Dunphin is now almost a man & Charles with his fine
open countenance begins to look like a young dolder.
Sarah Ann must not be forgotten & I fear Hannah is not
so pretty as she was to be. I would make many
enquiries respecting many neighbors & should like to hear from
them all. I earnestly hope you will not fail to write
me. Yours most respectfully Rufus McIntire

Hon.ble John Holmes