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Sacketts Harbor Decr 14th 1814

Dear Sir,

Yours dated in Novr. came to hand the 2nd instant — am very grateful for your friendly letter — I feared I was forgotten by my old friends as I had not recd any communication from them for a long time — perhaps my own negligence in writing accounts for the long silence of my friends.

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The public papers give us a general sketch of the state of affairs in Mass. but I feel extremely anxious to know a thousand particulars of "men & things" which I cannot at this distance of place. I feel much inclined to visit home this winter to learn these particulars as well as to see my connexions and friends. Is it possible that the leaders of a certain party in N. England will cap the climax of their folly by open resistence to the Govt. of the U. States? Or will they attempt the more peaceable but not less wicked measure to negotiate a neutrality or separate peace with the enemy? After what they have done I should not be surprized at any piece of folly or villany they may attempt. I believe they have done all the mischief they possible could in their blustering but peaceful course and have the disposition to do much more if they dare. Gentlemen who live out of N. England are sometimes apprehensive of domestic difficulties from the strange proceeding of the two last legislatures of Mass. & express much indignation at their conduct. They consider your exertions to have greatly checked the violence of those proceedings. Indeed many with whom I have conversed consider your continual presence

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presence at that post of danger to be necessary to the public tranquility and however they may wish for the benefit of your talents in Congress yet they think that the power of your eloquence is more usefully & effectually employed in opposing & suppressing treason in the Mass. legislature. Think not, Sir, that I am attempting to flatter you — there is no need of it and if there was, my inclination is less than ever to flatter any body and you know I was never much inclined to be a sycophant.

The season is far advanced, [illegible] idea of an attack on this post has for sometime entirely subsided. The enemy may come when the ice bridges over the St Lawrence but it is not at all probable as they will not be able in the winter to lay siege to the place if an assault fails which would be almost certain. It is understood to be the determination of the enemy to attack & if necessary besiege the place early next spring. If he persists in his purpose of carrying on offensive operations the next campaign will probably commence here — We shall be prepared to meet them with the heroes of Chippeway, Bridgewater & Erie & some other as good troops as any in the service. A British Lieutenant of the navy has lately deserted & is now here on board the fleet & solicits employ in our service. He commanded the schooner which our squadron drove on shore last summer at the head of the lake. He says that for that act of destroying the schooner he was unjustly reprimanded by ~~the commander~~ Sir James Yeo which his "English spirit could not brook" If he is not a spy (& it not probable that he is) it is more likely that he has been cashiered for that or some other conduct.

Nothing for certainty is yet known respecting an increase of our naval force on this lake. The

The only fact that has transpired worthy of notice is that the Agent of the Contractor for building public ships here has for ten days past been extremely active in making contracts for very large quantities of ship-timber to be delivered as soon as possible. This gives rise to numerous reports & conjectures as to the kind of ships to be built but nothing else is known & you can draw as correct conclusions as any other person at present. I don't

[illegible]

need what additional force to build nor will they tell they consult Commodore Chauncey who left here about the 1st Inst suddenly & in haste for N. York or elsewhere — this is conjecture of my own. My opinion is against this war of ship-building on this lake for it is now certain that the enemy will not meet us without an undoubted superiority & will remain secure in port when equal or inferior. We cannot therefore ever bring the thing to issue ~~[illegible]~~ unless one party or the other gets strong enough to destroy the depot at Kingston or S. Ch. & thus destroy the fleet or drive them out.

I should have answered your letter before but have been absent about ten days in the country for the benefit of my health which has been thereby fully restored. I had been unwell for several weeks & the physicians ~~[illegible]~~ recommended exercise & the air inland from the lake. An invalid could not take much exercise at the Harbor for the most rainy season ever known, a clay soil & constant passing made the whole village & vicinity a continued mire almost impassable for a horse. The cold has now made it hard & a few inches of snow has made the ways tolerably smooth. The bay was a few days

days since partly frozen over but is again open.

I rec^d a letter sometime since from Mr Goodwin & neglected to answer it so long that I did not know where to direct one as he then expected to go home ere this. If at home tell him to let me know & I will write him. Give my respects to Mrs Goodwin &c the Mr Saywards & all other friends. Mrs Holmes is ever entitled to my grateful remembrance & respect. Tell all the children & Hannah in particular that I still remember them as they were when I left Alfred & expect to be surprised at their alteration in size when I next see them.

I need not assure you of a continuance of my gratefull esteem & respect

Rufus McIntire

Hon J. Holmes

Rufus McIntire

December 14 1814

Honble John Holmes
Counsellor at Law
Alfred, York Co
Dis. Maine

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P.S. I have transmitted to my Brother my account for pay & the amount of about 200 dolls & directed him if he could get them paid in money acceptable to you to pay you over at least 100 dolls. I sent my accounts because I know that N. York bills in which I could have been paid here were at a great discount in Mass. & I have since learned the Pay Master at the Eastward pay in treasury notes only which are still lower in that market than York bills - I fear some delay in having those accounts converted into money ~~from~~ from L. R. M.