

service by the detachment of the King's regiment, will be forwarded to your Lordship by the first opportunity, to be laid at the feet of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE PREVOST.

To the Right Honourable Earl Bathurst,
&c. &c. &c.

SIR, *Prescott, February 22, 1813.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you, for the information of his Excellency the Commander of the Forces, that, in consequence of the commands of his Excellency to retaliate, under favourable circumstances, upon the enemy, for his late wanton aggressions on this frontier, I, this morning about seven o'clock, crossed the River St. Lawrence upon the ice, and attacked and carried, after a little more than an hour's action, his position in and near the opposite town of Ogdenburg, taking eleven pieces of cannon, and all his ordnance, marine, commissariat, and Quarter-Master-General's stores, four officers and seventy prisoners, and burning two armed schooners and two large gun boats, and both his barracks.

My force consisted of about four hundred and eighty regulars and militia, and was divided into two columns: the right, commanded by Captain Jenkins, of the Glengarry light infantry fencibles, was composed of his own flank company, and about seventy militia; and from the state of the ice, and the enemy's position in the Old French Fort, was directed to check his left, and interrupt his retreat, whilst I moved on with the left column, consisting of one hundred and twenty of the King's regiment, forty of the royal Newfoundland corps, and about two hundred militia, towards his position in the town, where he had posted his heavy field artillery. The depth of the snow in some degree retarded the advance of both columns, and exposed them, particularly the right, to a heavy cross fire from the batteries of the enemy, for a longer period than I had expected, but pushing on rapidly after the batteries began to open upon us, the left column soon gained the right bank of the river, under the direct fire of his artillery and line of musquetry, posted on an eminence near the shore; moving on rapidly, my advance, consisting of the detachment of the royal Newfoundland and some select militia, I turned his right with the detachment of the King's regiment, and after a few discharges from his

artillery, took them with the bayonet, and drove his infantry through the town; some escaping across the Black River into the fort, but the majority fled to the woods, or sought refuge in the houses, from whence they kept such a galling fire, that it was necessary to dislodge them with our field pieces, which now came up from the bank of the river, where they had stuck on landing, in the deep snow.

Having gained the high ground on the brink of the Black River opposite the fort, I prepared to carry it by storm; but, the men being quite exhausted, I procured time for them to recover breath, by sending in a summons, requiring an unconditional surrender. During these transactions, Captain Jenkins had gallantly led on his column, and had been exposed to a heavy fire of seven guns, which he bravely attempted to take with the bayonet, though covered with two hundred of the enemy's best troops: advancing as rapidly as the deep snow, and the exhausted state (in consequence) of his men would admit, he ordered a charge, and had not proceeded many paces, when his left arm was broken to pieces by a grape-shot; but still undauntedly running on with his men, he almost immediately afterwards was deprived of the use of his right arm by a discharge of case-shot; still heroically disregarding all personal consideration, he nobly ran on, cheering his men, to the assault, till exhausted by pain and loss of blood, he became unable to move: his company gallantly continued the charge under Lieutenant M'Auley, but the reserve of militia not being able to keep up with them, they were compelled, by the great superiority of the enemy, to give way, leaving a few on a commanding position, and a few of the most advanced, in the enemy's possession, nearly about the time that I gained the height above-mentioned. The enemy hesitating to surrender, I instantly carried his eastern battery, and by it silenced another which now opened again, and ordering on the advance, the detachment of the King's, and the Highland company of militia, under Captain Eustace, of the King's regiment, he gallantly rushed into the fort; but the enemy retreating by the opposite entrance, escaped into the woods, which I should effectually have prevented, if my Indian warriors had returned sooner from a detached service on which they had that morning been employed.

I cannot close this statement without expressing my admiration of the gallantry and self-devotion