

American Government, or attach disgrace to His Majesty's arms. The enemy set an example in his retreat from Fort George, by burning the town of Newark, that has produced calamitous consequences to himself since the theatre of war has been transferred into his own territory. Painful is such a retribution to those who execute it—I have felt the authority most repugnant, and I sincerely hope it may not again be excited.

I have sent my Aid-de-Camp Captain Cochrane overland to Halifax, as the bearer of my dispatches to your Lordship; he carries with him a stand of colours taken in the fort of Niagara, to be laid at the feet of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and I beg leave to refer your Lordship to him for such information as you may require respecting this command.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE PREVOST.

To Earl Bathurst, &c. &c. &c.

SIR, Fort Niagara, December 20, 1813.

CONCEIVING the possession of Fort Niagara to be of the highest importance in every point of view to the tranquility and security of this frontier, immediately on my arrival at St. Davids, I determined upon its reduction, if practicable, without too great a sacrifice. There being however but two batteaux at this side of the water, I did not think proper to make the attempt until a sufficient number should be brought from Burlington, at this season of the year a most difficult undertaking. But by the indefatigable exertions of Captain Elliot, Deputy-Assistant-Quarter-Master-General, every difficulty, particularly in the carriage of the batteaux by land for several miles, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather (the ground being covered with snow, and the frost severe,) was overcome; they were again launched; and the troops, consisting of a small detachment of Royal artillery; the grenadier company of the royal scots; the flank companies of the 41st and the 100th regiments; amounting in the whole to about five hundred and fifty, which I had placed under the immediate orders of Colonel Murray, Inspecting Field-Officer, were embarked. The inclosed report of that most zealous and judicious officer, will point out to you the detail of their further proceedings.

At five o'clock A. M. the fort was attacked by assault, at the point of the bayonet; two picquets, posted at the distance of a mile, and of a mile and a half from the works, having previously been destroyed to a man by the same weapon, and at half an hour afterwards this important place was completely in our possession. By this gallant achievement twenty-seven pieces of ordnance (mounted on the several defences), three thousand stand of arms, a number of rifles, a quantity of ammunition, blankets, clothing, several thousand pairs of shoes, &c. have fallen into our hands, besides fourteen officers and three hundred and thirty other prisoners, and eight respectable inhabitants of this part of the country, who had been dragged from the peaceful enjoyment of their property to a most unwarrantable confinement, were released, together with some Indian

warriors of the Cooknawaga and Six Nation tribes. The enemy's loss amounted to sixty-five in killed, and to but twelve in wounded, which clearly proves how irresistible a weapon the bayonet is in the hands of British soldiers. Our loss was only five killed and three wounded. I have to regret the death of a very promising young officer, Lieutenant Nolan, of the 100th regiment.

I beg leave to bear the highest testimony of the anxious, active, and meritorious exertions of Colonel Murray, who, I regret to say, received a severe, though not dangerous wound in the wrist, which, I hope, will not at this critical period deprive me for any great length of time of his valuable services; and to Lieutenant-Colonel Hamilton, of the 100th regiment, and the officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers, who so gallantly achieved this most daring and brilliant enterprise.

The militia came forward with alacrity, and assisted much in landing and transporting the batteaux across the river, in a very rapid current, for which service they are deserving of the highest praise.

Captain Norton, the Indian Chief, volunteered his services, and accompanied the troops. And I beg to recommend in the strongest terms to the favour and protection of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, Captain Elliot of the 103d regiment, Deputy Assistant Quarter-Master General, whose conduct on this, as on every other occasion, has been so distinguished; as also Lieutenant Dawson, of the 100th regiment, who commanded the forlorn hope; Captain Fawcett, of the same regiment, who immediately supported him with the grenadiers; and Captain Martin, who with three companies, gallantly stormed the eastern demi-bastion.

My best acknowledgements are due to Major-Generals Riall and Vincent, for the cordial and zealous assistance I received from them in making the arrangements; to Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey, Deputy-Adjutant-General, and to the officers of my personal staff.

I have the honour to forward to your Excellency the American colours taken on this occasion, by Captain Foster, my Aide-de-Camp, who being in my fullest confidence, will give your Excellency such further information as you may require.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) GORDON DRUMMOND,
Lieutenant-General.

SIR, Fort Niagara, 19th Dec. 1813.

IN obedience to your Honour's commands, directing me to attack Fort Niagara, with the assistance of the army of the right, I resolved upon attempting a surprise. The embarkation commenced on the 18th, at night, and the whole of the troops were landed three miles from the fort early on the following morning, in the following order of attack:—Advanced guard, one subaltern and twenty rank and file; grenadiers 100th regiment; Royal Artillery, with grenades; five companies 100th regiment, under Lieutenant-Colonel Hamilton, to assault the main gate, and escalade the works ad-