

# WESTERN SUN

EACH CENTURY HAS ITS PECULIAR MODE OF DOING BUSINESS, AND MEN GUIDED MORE BY CUSTOM THAN BY REASON, FOLLOW WITHOUT ENQUIRY, THE MANNERS WHICH ARE PREVALENT IN THEIR OWN TIME.—HUM.

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## THE WESTERN SUN,

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Copy of a letter from Mr. Monroe, to Sir Alexander Cochrane, vice admiral, &c. Department of State, Sept. 6, 1814.

SIR,

I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 18th of August, stating, that having been called on by the governor general of the Canadas, to aid him in carrying into effect measures of retaliation against the inhabitants of the U. States, for the wanton desolation committed by their army in Upper Canada, it has become your duty, conformably with the nature of the governor general's application, to issue to the naval force under your command, an order to destroy and lay waste such towns and districts upon the coast as may be found affailable.

It is seen with the greatest surprise, that this system of devastation which has been practised by the British forces, so manifestly contrary to the usage of civilized warfare, is placed by you on the ground of retaliation. No sooner were the U. States compelled to resort to war against G. Britain, than they resolved to wage it in a manner most consonant to the principles of humanity, and to those friendly relations which it was desirable to preserve between the two nations, after the restoration of peace. They perceived however with the deepest regret, that a spirit alike just and humane was neither cherished nor acted on by your government. Such an assertion would not be hazarded, if it was not supported by facts, the proofs of which have perhaps already carried the same conviction to other nations that it has to the people of these States. Without dwelling on the deplorable cruelties committed by the savages in the British ranks, and in the British pay, on American prisoners at the river Raisin, which to this day have never been disavowed or atoned; I refer, as more immediately connected with the subject of your letter, the wanton desolation that was committed at Havre de Grace, and at Georgetown, early in the Spring, 1813. These villages were burnt and ravaged by the naval forces of G. B. to the ruin of their unarmed inhabitants,

who saw with astonishment that they derived no protection to their property from the laws of war. During the same season, scenes of invasion and pillage, carried on under the same authority, were witnessed all along the waters of the Chesapeake, to an extent inflicting the most serious private distresses, and under circumstances that justified the suspicion, that revenge and cupidity, rather than the manly motives that should dictate the hostility of a high minded foe, led to their perpetration. The late destruction of the Houses of Government in this city, is another act which comes necessarily into view. In the wars of modern Europe, no examples of the kind, even among nations the most hostile to each other, can be traced. In the course of ten years past, the capitals of the principal powers of the continent of Europe have been conquered, and occupied alternately by the victorious armies of each other, and no instance of such wanton & unjustifiable destruction has been seen. We must go back to distant and barbarous ages, to find a parallel for the acts of which I complain.

Altho' these acts of desolation invited, if they did not impose on the government the necessity of retaliation, yet in no instance has it been authorized. The burning of the village of Newark in Upper Canada, posterior to the outrages above enumerated, was not executed on that principle. The village of Newark adjoined fort George, and its destruction was justified by the officer who ordered it, on the ground that it became necessary in the military operations there.—The act however was disavowed by the government. The burning which took place at Long Point was unauthorized by the government, and the conduct of the officer subjected to the investigation of a military tribunal. For the burning of St. David's committed by stragglers, the officer who commanded in that quarter was dismissed without trial for not preventing it.

I am commanded by the president distinctly to state, that it is little comports with any orders which have been issued to the military and naval commanders of the U. States, as it does with the established and known humanity of the American nation, to pursue a system which it appears you have adopted. This government owes it to itself, to the principles which it has ever held sacred, to disavow, as justly chargeable to it, any wanton, cruel and unjustifiable warfare.

Whatever unauthorized irregularity may have been committed by any of its troops, it would have been ready, acting on these principles of sacred and eternal obligation, to disavow, and, as far as might be practicable, to repair. But in the plan of desolating warfare which your letter so explicitly makes known, and which is attempted to be excused on a plea so utterly groundless, the president perceives a spirit of deep rooted hostility, which, without the evidence of such facts, he could not have believed existed, or would have been carried to such an extremity.

For the reparation of injuries, of whatever nature they may be, not sanctioned by the law of nations, which the military or naval force of either power may have committed, against the other, this government will always be ready to enter into reciprocal arrangements. It is presumed that your government will neither expect nor propose any which are not reciprocal.

Should your government adhere to a system of desolation, so contrary to the views

and practice of the U. States, so revolting to humanity, & repugnant to the sentiment and usages of the civilized world, whilst it will be seen with the deepest regret, it must and will be met with a determination and constancy becoming a free people, contending in a just cause for their essential rights, and their dearest interests.

I have the honor to be, with great consideration, your most obt. humble servt.

JAS. MONROE.

Vice adm. Sir A. Cochrane, &c.

## By Wednesdays' Mail.

WASHINGTON CITY, Sept. 24.  
Gen. Brown's 3d Great Exploit  
Copy of a letter from maj. gen. Brown to the secretary of war, dated—Head Quarters, fort Erie, Sept. 13.

I have the satisfaction to announce to you a brilliant achievement yesterday effected by the forces under my command.—A fort was made upon the enemy's batteries. These were carried, we blew up his principal work, destroyed his battering pieces, and captured 400 prisoners. The enemy resisted our assault with firmness; but suffered greatly. His total loss cannot be less than 800 men.

In such a business we could not but expect to lose many valuable lives; they were offered as a voluntary sacrifice to the safety and honor of this army and the nation.

I will forward on to you the particulars of this splendid affair, with a return of the killed and wounded, in the course of a few days.

Very respectfully, your humble servt.

J. BROWN.

Hon. secretary of war.

Copy of a letter from J. B. Varnum, esq. to his friend in this city, dated  
BUFFALO, Sept. 19.

DEAR SIR,

We have had another battle on this frontier. The greater part of our forces sallied out from their works at fort Erie on the afternoon of the 17th inst. for the purpose of destroying the enemies batteries, that were nearly ready to open a deadly fire upon our works and army. Two out of three of the most important batteries were carried, after a severe conflict of more than two hours. The guns and carriages were destroyed, besides a large quantity of ammunition—near 400 prisoners were taken; among them twelve officers.

The enemy's total loss must have exceeded 800 men—while ours was comparatively small, except in officers. We have to lament the loss of several valuable officers. Col. Gibson, lt. col. Wood, capt. Hal, & capt. Armistead, of the regular army, killed. Gen. Ripley, col. Aspinwall, maj. Trimble and several other officers wounded. Gen. Davis of the militia killed, gen. Porter and several other officers wounded. The enemy's loss will probably induce him to raise the siege. Six pieces of battering artillery were destroyed; among them was a 68 pound cannonade. The fort was very brilliant, and succeeded much better than could have been anticipated.

I am yours, &c.

J. B. VARNUM.

A. Bradley, jun. esq.

P. S. I was over at the fort during the action, and was not able to come over to this place until late last evening, owing to the roughness of the lake. The prisoners

have not yet come over. Maj. Villette, who was formerly a prisoner, and a major De Winter are among them.

Col. Fisher, a lt. col. and a major of the British army, are all ascertained to have been killed.  
J. B. V.

## From Sackett's Harbor.

From the Herkimer American, Sept. 22.  
SACKETT'S HARBOR, Sept. 12.

Our four ships arrived in this port yesterday afternoon, and the two brigs James & Jefferson arrived last evening—having left the head of the lake in consequence of an uncommon gale of wind which they experienced from the N. E. on Monday and Tuesday last in which the Jefferson, capt. Ridgley, was obliged to throw overboard 10 of her guns, and was, I understand, somewhat injured in her spars. The Jones, capt. Woolsey succeeded in getting clear without any loss. The brig Sylph, and sch. Lady of the Lake and Conquest are yet out, and as the wind is blowing very severely from the westward this day, I am afraid they will fare hard, unless they are in some harbor. Several small vessels have dragged their anchors even in this harbor since morning.

Gen. Izard's army has arrived, and also the Montgomery militia; making in all, I think, as respectable a force as I have ever seen at this place. Report says the regular troops are to embark on board the fleet, gun boats and transports, as soon as the weather will admit. Where their place of designation is I cannot say; nor have I any grounds for forming, and much less for giving an opinion. I shall however probably know as soon as the public generally do, and will give you the earliest information. The enemy's new ship at Kingston had got her masts in before our ships left that station.

## September 19.

The greater part of gen. Izard's troops are now embarking. The remainder are said to be going to their place of destination by land.

Marching Orders Again.—Et. col. C. P. Bellinger received orders on Monday, for the regt. of militia detached from this county in pursuance to the president's requisition of which the governor has assigned to him the command, to march this day for Sackett's Harbor.

## New-York, Sept. 24.

Mr. Eliza Clarke, who arrived here yesterday morning direct from Plattsburgh, informs, that he saw previous to his departure, which was on the 15th, 500 men mostly Germans, with their officers, (none of a higher rank than capt.) enter that place with colours flying, and a full band of music.—When within a mile of Plattsburgh, they sent in a flag informing of their desertion, and that they were the rear guard of Sir G. Prevost's army, and were part of the army of Wellington. Nearly 200 other deserters had come in by small parties, & many more would have followed their example, but thro' fear of being popped off by the Yankee militia, as they said, before they could make their desertion known.

## Battle on Lake Champlain.

Copy of a letter from com. M. Donough to the secretary of the navy.

United States ship Saratoga, Plattsburgh Bay, Sept. 13.

SIR—I have the honor to give you the particulars of the action which took place on the 11th inst. on this lake.