

Sacketts Harbor, Nov. 22, 1813

Dear John,

This letter will bring you in debt to me **three**, which I beg of you will remit to me in weekly payments, if not otherwise advised----should he fail, I'll declare a non-intercourse.

Our armies have gone into winter quarters--Hampton has returned to Plattsburgh, and Wilkinson commenced building huts for his army at French Mills, on centimeter, 5 miles from the St. Lawrence and 45 or 50 from Montréal. I am much afraid that this event has been in some measure produced by the personal animosity existing between Hampton and Wilkinson. The latter has been kept inactive since the declaration of War; (whether from the want of confidence of the government, or the supposition that his appointment to the principal command would be unpopular, is not for me to say) and when at length the state of the army and the country imperiously demanded his presence on the Northern frontier, and the ?????? he made to under the expedition formidable as to means and numbers, and end as it appears it has done, must indeed, be mortifying to a man of his character. Hampton, known to obey orders with the utmost promptitude and alacrity, no doubt appeared on the spot designated for the junction of the to armies, on the day appointed, and after waiting some days the appearance of Wilkinson (only delayed by the elements,) returned to Plattsburgh:--- This is the cause assigned for its failure. How far it will justify the general in the eyes of the people, remains to be ascertained, but I fear the experiment will prove fatal to him. Wilkinson's health, when the expedition sailed, being bad, and had he proceeded the command might have evolved on Hampton alone (for Lewis is a mere---) and consequently all the honor, may perhaps account for the sudden determination of going into winter quarters. For my part I never could imagine, for a moment, that the success of an expedition powerful as this certainly was, against a section of country at present so feeble in its resources, could reflect immortal honor on its conduction; on the contrary the man who would fail with such a force within his grasp, must be incapable of a ??????? command.

General Harrison and suite arrived on Saturday night in the Pike from Niagara, and left here this morning on his route to Washington. He is a plain, mild man, shrewd and intelligent, about 40 years of age, rather slender, and apparently in delicate health. I had the pleasure of an introduction, and was received in the most affable manner. On his leaving the Pike a Federal salute was fired, followed by another from Fort Tompkins, accompanied by the band of the third regiment artillery. The weather has been stormy for the last two or three days, and in consequence only a part of the Fleet has arrived--- the Madison and two of the schooners put back into Niagara. Almost 1200 men are on board, which together with the troops already here, will go into winter quarters, now preparing for them.

Our friend, Capt. McElroy, has been arrested for 3 or 4 months, he was tried at Fort George, and sentenced to be ????-But but- Gen. Boyd not wishing to ??? on the proceedings, sent them to the War Department, and thence they have been returned to

the commanding officer of this district (Wilkinson) for his approval or disapproval--the result is not known. Mc Elroy and myself have never spoken, except on points of duty since I have been in the Army; and though his dismissal would give me a Captaincy, I should extremely regret to see him so far disgraced.

Fisher has been dangerously unwell for 5 weeks, but is now so far recovered as to be able to stroll about, and eat like a Trojan--he desires his best respects to you.

Present my best complements to the girls, and all acquaintances and accept for your self my best wishes.

Nathaniel McLaughlin