

AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE.

ALBANY, AUGUST 17.

REPULSE OF THE ENEMY AT SANDUSKY.

Copy of a letter from Major-General Harrison to the Secretary of War.

HEAD-QUARTERS,
SENECA TOWN, Aug. 4, 1813.

SIR—In my letter of the 1st instant I did myself the honor to inform you that one of my scouting parties had just returned from the Lake shore, and had discovered the day before, the enemy in force near the mouth of the Sandusky bay. The party had not passed Lower Sandusky two hours before the advance, consisting of Indians, appeared before the British troops; and in the course of the night they commenced a cannonading against the fort with 3 six pounders and 2 howitzers; the latter from gunboats. The firing was partially answered by Major Croghan, having a six-pounder, the only piece of artillery.

The fire of the enemy was continued at intervals, during the second instant, until about half after five P. M. when finding that their cannon made little impression upon the works, and having discovered my position here, and apprehending an attack, an attempt was made to carry the place by storm. Their troops were formed in two columns, Lieut. Col. Short headed the principal one composed of the light and battalion companies of the 41st regiment. The gallant officer conducted his men to the brink of the ditch, under the most galling and destructive fire from the garrison, and leaping into it was followed by a considerable part of his own and light company; at this time a masked port hole was suddenly opened and a six pounder with an half load of powder and double charge of leaden slugs at the distance of 30 feet poured destruction upon them and killed or wounded nearly every man who had entered the ditch. In vain did the British officers exert themselves to lead on the balance of the column; it retired in disorder under a shower of shot from the Fort, and sought safety in the adjoining woods. The other column headed by the grenadiers had also retired, after having suffered from the muskets of our men, to an adjacent ravine. In the course of the night the enemy, with the aid of their Indians, drew off the greater part of the wounded and dead, and embarked them in boats, descended the river with the utmost precipitation. In the course of the 2d inst. having heard the cannonading, I made several attempts to ascertain the force and situation of the enemy; our scouts were unable to get near the fort, from the Indians which surrounded it. Finding however, that the enemy had only light artillery, and being well convinced that it could make little impression upon the works and that any attempt to storm it would be resisted with effect. I waited for the arrival of 250 mounted volunteers, which on the evening before had left Upper Sandusky. But as soon as I was informed that the enemy were retreating, I set out with the dragoons, to endeavor to overtake them, leaving Gens. McArthur and Case to follow with all the infantry (about 700) that could be spared from the protection of the stores and sick at this place. I found it impossible to come up with them. Upon my arrival at Sandusky, I was informed by the prisoners that the enemy's force consisted of 490 regular troops, and 400 of Dixon's Indians, commanded by Gen. Proctor in person, and that Tecumseh, with about 2000 warriors, was somewhere in the swamps, between this and Fort Meigs, expecting my advancing, or that of a convoy of provisions. As there was no prospect of doing any thing in front, and being apprehensive that Tecumseh might destroy the stores and small detachments in my rear, I sent orders to Gen. Cass, who commanded the reserve, to fall back to this place, and to Gen. McArthur, with the front line to follow and support him. I remained at Sandusky until all the parties that were sent out in every direction returned not an enemy was to be seen.

I am sorry that I cannot transmit to you Major Croghan's official report. He was to have sent it to me this morning, but I have just heard that he was so much exhausted by thirty-six hours continued exertion, as to be unable to make it. It will not be amongst the least of Gen. Proctor's mortifications, to find that he has been baffled by a youth who has just passed his twenty-first year. He is, however, a hero worthy of his gallant uncle (Gen. Geo. R. Clark.)

Captain Hunter of the 17th regiment, the second in command, conducted himself with great propriety; and never were a finer set of young fellows than the subalterns, viz. Lieutenants Johnson and Baylor of the 17th,

Anthony of the 24th, Meeks of the 7th, and ensigns Shipp and Duncan of the 17th.

The following account of the unworthy artifice and conduct of the enemy, will excite your indignation. Major Chambers was sent by General Proctor, accompanied by Col. Elliot, to demand the surrender of the fort. They were met by ensign Shipp. The major observed, that Gen. Proctor had a number of cannon, a large body of regular troops, and so many Indians, whom it was impossible to controul; and if the fort was taken, it must be, the whole garrison would be massacred. Mr. Shipp answered that it was the determination of Major Croghan, his officers and men, to defend the garrison, or be buried in it; and that they might do their best. Col. Elliot then addressed Mr. Shipp and said, you are a fine young man; I pity your situation for God's sake surrender, and prevent the dreadful slaughter that must follow resistance. Shipp turned from him with indignation, and was immediately taken hold of by an Indian, who attempted to wrest his sword from him.—Elliot pretended to exert himself to release him, and expressed great anxiety to get him safe in the fort.

I have the honor to enclose you a copy of the first note received from major Croghan. It was written before day; and it has since been ascertained, that of the enemy there remained in the ditch, one Lieut. Col. one Lieut. and 25 privates, the number of prisoners, one serjeant and 25 privates; fourteen of them badly wounded: Every care has been taken of the latter, and the officers buried with the honors due to their rank and their bravery. All the dead that were not in the ditch, were taken off in the night by the Indians. It is impossible, from the circumstances of the attack, that they should have lost less than 100. Some of the prisoners think it amounted to 200. A young gentleman, a private in the Petersburg volunteers, of the name of Brown, assisted by five or six of that company and of the Pittsburgh Blues, who were accidentally in the fort, managed the six-pounder which produced such destruction in the ranks of the enemy. I have the honor to be, &c.

WM. HENRY HARRISON.

N. B. Of our few wounded men, there is but one that will not be well in less than six days.

(COPY)

Lower Sandusky, August 5, 1813.

DEAR SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that the combined force of the enemy, amounting to at least 500 regulars and seven or eight hundred Indians under the immediate command of Gen. Proctor, made its appearance before this place, early on Sunday evening last, and so soon as the General had made such dispositions of his troops as would cut off my retreat should I be disposed to make one, he sent Col. Elliott, accompanied by Major Chambers, with a flag, to demand the surrender of the fort, as he was anxious to spare the effusion of blood, which he should probably not have it in his power to do, should he be reduced to the necessity of taking the place by storm.—My answer to the summons was, that I was determined to defend the place to the last extremity, and that no force, however large, should induce me to surrender it. So soon as the flag had returned, a brisk fire was opened upon us from the gun-boats in the river and from a 5½ inch howitzer on shore, which was kept up with little intermission throughout the night. At an early hour the next morning three sixes (which had been placed during the night within 250 yards of the pickets) began to play upon us but with little effect. About 4 o'clock, P. M. discovering that the fire from all his guns was concentrated against the north western angle of the fort. I became confident that his object was to make a breach, and attempt to storm the works at that point. I therefore ordered out as many men as could be employed for the purpose of strengthening that part, which was so effectually secured by means of bags of flour, sand, &c. that the picketing suffered little or no injury; notwithstanding which the enemy, about 500 having formed column, advanced to assault our works at the expected point, at the same time making two feints on the front of Capt. Hunter's lines. The columns which advanced against the north western angle, consisted of about 350 men, was so completely enveloped in smoke, as not to be discovered until he had approached within 18 or 20 paces of the lines, but the men being all at their posts and ready to receive it, commenced so heavy and galling fire as to throw the column a little into confusion; being quickly rallied it advanced to the outer works and began to leap into the ditch. Just at that moment a fire of grape was opened from our 6 pounder (which had been previously arranged so as to rake in that direction) which together with the musketry, threw

them into such confusion that they were compelled to retire precipitately to the woods.

During the assault, which lasted about half an hour, an incessant fire was kept up by the enemy's artillery (which consisted of 5 sixes and a howitzer) but without effect. My whole loss during the siege, was one killed and seven wounded slightly. The loss of the enemy in killed, wounded and prisoners, must exceed one hundred and fifty; one Lieut. Col. a Lieut. and fifty rank and file were found in and about the ditch, dead or wounded. Those of the remainder who were not able to escape were taken off during the night by the Indians. Seventy stand of arms, and several brace of pistols have been collected near the works. About three in the morning the enemy sailed down the river, leaving behind them a boat, containing clothing and considerable military stores.

Too much praise cannot be bestowed on the officers, non-commissioned officers and privates under my command for their gallantry and good conduct during the siege.

Yours with respect,

(Signed) G. CROGHAN.

Maj. 17th U. S. inf. Com. F. S.
Maj. Gen. Harrison, Com. N. W. Army.

BOSTON, SEPTEMBER 6.

Correspondence between Commodore Hardy, and the U. S. Officer commanding at Sag-Harbor, on the subject of the seizure of a Mr. Penny.

Sir Thomas Hardy, commander of H. B. M. Squadron, off Gardner's Island.

SIR—The inhabitants of the town of East-Hampton have requested of me a flag, which I now authorize, for the purpose of demanding Joshua Penny, a natural born citizen of the township of Southold on this island, and a resident of the town of East-Hampton.

He is demanded as a non-combatant, being attached to no vessel as a mariner or corps of militia whatever, but was taken by force by your men from the bed in his own house unarmed.

The bearer of this flag is Lt. Hedges, an officer under my command, in government service. You will have the goodness to deliver Mr. Penny to Lt. Hedges; as he cannot consistently be retained as a prisoner of war by any article in the cartel agreed on, ratified and confirmed by the agents of each of our governments for the exchange of prisoners.

Given under my hand, at the garrison of Sag-Harbor, this 23d day of August, 1813.
BENJAMIN CASE, maj. commanding the troops in the U. S. service at Sag-Harbor.

His Britannic Majesty's ship Ramilies, in Gardner's Bay, Aug. 23d.

SIR—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date and as I do not wish to detain Lt. Hedges the bearer of your flag, I will do myself the honor of replying to your letter to-morrow by a flag of truce.

I have the honor to be, sir, your very humble servant,

THOMAS M. HARDY, Capt.

To Major Case commanding the troops in the U. States service at Sag-Harbor.

His Britannic Majesty's ship Ramilies, Gardner's Bay, 24th Aug. 1813.

SIR—As it was late yesterday afternoon when I had the honor of receiving your letter of the 23d inst. respecting the release of Joshua Penny, I did not judge it proper to detain Lt. Hedges for my reply.

I beg leave to inform you, I had received certain information that this man conducted a detachment of boats, sent from the U. S. squadron, under the command of Com. Decatur, now lying in New-London, from that port to Gardner's Island, on the 26th July last, for the express purpose of surprising and capturing the Captain of his Britannic Majesty's frigate Orpheus and myself, and having failed in the undertaking, but making prisoners of some officers and men belonging to the Orpheus, he went with the remaining boats to Three mile Harbor. The next account I had of him, was his being employed in a boat contrived for the purpose under the command of Thomas Welling, prepared with a torpedo, to destroy this ship, and that he was in her at Nepeug Beach, when this ship and the Orpheus were in Fort Pond Bay, last week. He has also had a certificate given him on the 18th of this month by some of the respectable inhabitants of East-Hampton, recommending him to Com. Decatur, as a fit person to be employed on a particular service, by him, and that he has for some time been entered on the books of the frigates at 40 dolls. per month; and to which, this notorious character has been recognized by

some of the officers, and men of this ship, as having been on board two or three times, with clams and fruit; of course, as a spy, to collect information of our movements. Having been made so well acquainted with the conduct of this man for the last six weeks, and the purpose for which he has been so actually employed in hostilities against his Britannic Majesty, I cannot avoid expressing my surprize that the inhabitants of East-Hampton, should have attempted to enforce on you a statement so contrary to fact. I, therefore, cannot think of permitting such an avowed enemy to be out of my power when I know so much of him as I do. He will therefore, be detained as a prisoner of war, until the pleasure of the commander in chief is known.

Robert Gray, an inoffensive old man, who was taken with Penny, I have landed as it does not appear that he is one of his accomplices in the transactions I have alluded to.

I think proper to enclose a copy of my letter to justice Terry, to warn the inhabitants of the coast against permitting the torpedo to remain any where near them. I have the honor to be, sir, your most obedient humble servant,

THOMAS M. HARDY, Capt. of H. B. M's ship Ramilies. Maj. Benj. Case, Commanding the troops in the U. S. service at Sag-Harbor.

His Majesty's ship Ramilies off N. London, Aug. 28, 1813.

SIR—Having received positive information that a whale boat, the property of Thomas Welling and others, prepared with a torpedo, for the avowed purpose of destroying this ship, a mode of warfare practised by individuals from mercenary motives, and more novel than honorable, is kept in your neighborhood, and as from the very good information I obtain from various sources, there is no doubt these persons will soon be in my power, I beg you to warn the inhabitants of the towns along the coast of Long Island, that whenever I hear this boat or any other of her description has been allowed to remain after this day, I will order every house near the shore to be destroyed.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

THOMAS M. HARDY, Capt. Terry, Esq. justice of the peace, Southold, Long Island.

SUGAR and RUM.

Just Received per Schooner BRITANNIA, JOHN WOODWORTH Master, from MARTINIQUE,

13 Hhds. Muscovado Sugar, 7 Puncheons of Rum,

For Sale by the Subscriber cheap for CASH. NEHEMIAH MERRITT. St. John, 8th February, 1813.

NEHEMIAH MERRITT,

Has Received by the WILLIAM, ROBERT BAIRD, master, from LIVERPOOL, AN ASSORTMENT OF BRITISH MERCHANDIZE, Which he will sell on reasonable terms,

AMONG WHICH ARE THE FOLLOWING, VIZ: SUPERFINE, Second and Coarse Cloths, S double mill'd and single Cassimeres and Serges, Salsbury and other Flannels, Calicos, Shawls, Cambrics, Ladies color'd Cotton and Worsted Hose, Men's do. Cotton Shirting, Irish Linen, Slops comprising shirts, trousers, round and pea-jackets, and watch coats, Men's fine and coarse Hats, cod and pollock Lines and Hooks, a fashionable assortment of coat and vest Buttons, &c. &c.—Crates of well assorted CROCKERY, and Tierces of GLASS WARE.

Also, A quantity of LIVERPOOL SALT, and 50 tons of COALS, which he will sell very low if taken out of the vessel.

He has Likewise for Sale,

Prime and Mess BEEF and PORK in barrels, Pitch, Tar and Turpentine, Cordage, bolt, flat and square Iron, Spikes, Nails, Iron Pots, Kettles and Bake Pans, Paints and Paint Oil, Stone Jugs and Butter Jars, &c.

NOTICE.

ALL Persons having demands against the Estate of the late JESSE LAWRENCE, of the Parish of St. Mary's, County of York, deceased, are requested to render them duly attested within twelve months from the date hereof, and all those indebted to said Estate are desired to make immediate payment to

PETER HAINES, Administrator. Keswick, August 30, 1813. 31

Blanks of various kinds may be had at this Office.