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CONDITIONS.

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Having in our possession a copy of a speech, for a vigorous prosecution of the present war, delivered as an answer to an oration in favor of peace on any terms, by a student of the WINCHESTER ACADEMY, at the close of last winter session. We take the liberty to insert it as expressive of that patriotic ardor which inflame the bosoms of the youth of our country.

FELLOW CITIZENS,

Far be it from me to detract in the slightest degree from the charms of peace. Peace, Celestial Nymph, whose smile diffuses happiness thro' out the world and lights up the lamp of joy in the troubled breast, with what pleasure would I now press her to my bosom with smiles! What heart is there in this assembly, so steeled to the sufferings of humanity, as not to sympathize with our bleeding country; or that would not rejoice with rapture at the return of peace? But if peace must be purchased at the expense of liberty, if we must abdicate freedom and live degraded and despoiled, sooner far let us bid farewell forever to peace, and welcome all the horrors of war. Let us blow the loud blast of Independence through this vast continent—let the glorious motto, "Liberty or Death," on the unfurled banners of America's sons, stream like a meteor in the air—let us grasp the gleaming steel, meet our brethren in arms, and associate with them in deeds of patriotism. The time is come, when we must either submit to dishonorable terms, or dye afresh in precious blood the crimson trophies of the revolution. Tho' our bosoms swell with an ardent desire of peace, yet that peace must be honorable. We are now, by our conduct to say, that we prefer despotism to a free government—that the heroes who planned the revolution, laboured, fought and bled in vain—and that we cheerfully rivet the shackles of slavery on the feet of unborn millions; or by a vigorous prosecution of the war show ourselves worthy of the blessings of liberty—that we value our freedom at the price of blood—and that we remember that it was the hands of our fathers that planted the tree of Liberty on the banks of the western streams. However abhorrent to the feelings and principles of man, whose first breath was the air of freedom in the dreadful work of bloodshed and death—to this wretched alternative we have been driven by the unheard of aggressions of our ancient enemy. Britain, conquered in the revolutionary war, drained of an ocean of blood and immense treasure, was compelled to acknowledge our Independence; yet retaining a lively sense of her wounded honour and departed glory, she has ever since treated us with the utmost indignity and contempt. Britain too, having experienced the faithful attachment of the revolutionary Tories, those degenerate sons of America, procured by Jay's treaty a privilege for them to return with all their love of royalty, and enjoy the rights of citizenship. This was pouring poison into the body politic—this was letting loose the pestilence to taint our political atmosphere, and blast the fair fruits of Independence. The British ministry, trusting to the strength of their party among us, have been heaping upon us accumulated insults, literally trying how much we would bear.—A moments reflection on the causes of the war, will enable us to discover that it is a war waged for the subjugation of the United States, a war commenced on the intolerable proud auspices of British dominance, and attended with the ensanguined footsteps of infernal injustice.—Passing over in contemptuous silence the Orders in Council, court perfidy and diabolical finesse, by which she hoped to rivet the chains of dependence on our country, let us look at her more flagrantly glaring atrocities. Thousands of native Americans have been impressed from the shores of peace—from the sail of freedom—and from beneath the mild splendors of the hemisphere of liberty, to floating dungeons—to the wide watery waste—and to blood-stained regions of tyranny—yes! Americans have been dragged away

from their all, their houses and homes forever left behind, and their infant offspring left without a friend, a father, or a protector! But who can describe the plight of woe, and rage of despair with which the bereaved spouse follows her captive husband, to the sounding shore of the ocean; there with hair disheveled, and rudely tost with the wintry blast—with cheeks bathed in briny torrents—and a bosom heaved with bitter anguish, she darts her eyes of love along the sky-bound sea, to take a last farewell of the murderous bark that bears away her husband, and her earthly hopes! But what imagination can paint the feelings of a husband, a father, a patriot, when he takes the last look of his forlorn, helpless, disconsolate spouse, the mother of his now fatherless children, and sees the last son of freedom paint, with farewell blushes, the winding shores of his blood-bought and long loved America!!! With what pathos does he mingle his sighs and lamentations with the howling tempests, less savage than his captors, though they should drift him to a returnless distance from his native home. The American who calls the present war unjust and unprovoked, becomes the advocate of guilt, and the infamous eulogist of cruelty; and the man who vindicates the conduct of the enemy, may justify a son for the slaughter of a father, or a benefactor. If the Greeks carried on a war of ten years with the Trojans, and destroyed the city of Troy, and the palaces of Priam, on account of one woman stolen from her country, with what zeal, unanimity, and perseverance, should not America prosecute the war on account of the thousands of her lost citizens. Let all the energies of the nation be roused—let her heroes, such as fought at Bunker Hill, Saratoga, Trenton and Monmouth, seize the sword of retributive justice—rally around the starry banner of freedom—rush to the field of battle, and there with arms extended like eternal Jove when guilt brings down the thunder, deal slaughter and death to their foes, commensurate to their crimes. In this manner let the war be prosecuted with vigour till the manes of our slaughtered citizens be propitiated by the blood of the Britons, and the victorious Eagle spread her triumphant wings over the ramparts of Quebec. In opposing the mistress of the ocean, who claims a right to search our vessels, and impress from them whom she pleases, benignant heaven has smiled on our naval department with the kindest auspices; we hail with rapture her rising glories of our naval sons. Ocean's famed queen, was seen by fancy's eye, weeping on her western cliffs, for the loss of so many of her sons; and the faded splendour of her naval glory; whilst the genius of American freedom was seen, with an immortal pen, enrolling the names and deeds of a Hull, a Lawrence, a Porter, a Jones, a Bainbridge, a Chauncey, and Perry, in the tablets of imperishable fame. Ye heroes of the North, who fought at Fort Meigs, and Fort Stephenson, and who on the Thames wrested the hatchet from the hand of the savage; go whet your avenging steel on the tomb of a Green, a Morgan, a Wayne, a Warren, a Washington, and let a remembrance of the cruelties of Raisin, and the inhuman brutalities of Hampton, nerve the arm that wields the shafts of vengeance. Ye bravest sons of Neptune, that dare to thwart the burning zone, to pierce the frozen seas, and hang upon the broken surge, go dip your sails in Trafalgar's wave—pursue the foe with nautic fury, from the bay of Bengal to the British channel, and all along illuminate the wide watery expanse with blazing ships laden with the richest commodities of the Indies. This is the way, and the only effectual method to bring the enemy to a conciliatory disposition—the way to water the tree of Liberty with benignant dews, and the way to flush the cheek of freedom with new, and perennial glories. In this way, our liberties shall be forever secured and transmitted to posterity, and the great arch of our national union, built by the heroes of the revolution shall stretch from the Atlantic east, to the Pacific west, bidding defiance to the ravages of age, and the assaults of every foe, till the final dissolution of matter and time herself shall sink into the ocean of eternity.

READING.

Too much reading is injurious. A habit of receiving the ideas of others prevents original thinking. Hobbes said, that if he had read as much as the eruditi, he should have been as ignorant.

GEN. BROWN'S SECOND BATTLE.

General Brown's Report of the Battle of the 25th ultimo, at the Falls of Niagara.

SIR, Confined as I was, and have been, since the last engagement with the enemy, I fear the account I am about to give, may be less full and satisfactory, than under other circumstances it might have been made. I particularly fear, that the conduct of the gallant men it was my good fortune to lead, will not be noticed in a way, due to their fame & the honor of our country. You are already apprised that the army had on the 25th ult. taken a position at Cippewa. About noon of that day, Col. Swift, who was posted at Lewistown, advised me by express, that the enemy appeared in considerable force in Queenstown, & on its heights; that four of the enemy's fleet had arrived during the preceding night, and were then laying near Fort Niagara, and that a number of boats were in view, moving up the streight. Within a few minutes after this intelligence had been received. I was further informed by Capt. Denmon, of the Quarter Master's Department, that the enemy was landing at Lewistown, and that our baggage and stores at Schlosser, and on their way thither, were in danger of immediate capture. It is proper here to mention, that having received advices as late as the 20th from Gen. Gaines that our fleet was then in port, and the Commodore sick, we ceased to look for co-operation from that quarter, and determined to disencumber ourselves of baggage, and march directly for Burlington Heights. To mask this intention, and to draw from Schlosser a small supply of provision, I fell back upon Cippewa. As this arrangement, under the increased force of the enemy, left much at hazard on our own side of the Niagara, and as it appeared by the before-stated information, that the enemy was about to avail himself of it, I conceived that the most effectual method of recalling him from this object, was to put myself in motion towards Queenstown. General Scott, with his 1st brigade, Towson's artillery, and all the dragoons and mounted men, were accordingly put in march on the road leading thither, with orders to report if the enemy appeared, and to call for assistance, if that was necessary. On the General's arrival at the Falls, he learned that the enemy was in force directly in his front—a narrow piece of woods alone intercepted his view of them. Waiting only to give this information, he advanced upon them. By the time Assistant Adjutant General Jones had delivered his message, the action began, and before the remaining part of the division had crossed the Chippewa, it had become close and general between the advanced corps. Though Gen. Ripley with the 2d Brigade, Major Hindman with the corps of artillery, and General Porter at the head of his command, had respectively pressed forward with ardor, it was not less than an hour before they were brought to sustain General Scott, during which time his command most skillfully and gallantly maintained the conflict. Upon my arrival I found that the General had passed the wood and engaged the enemy on the Queenstown road and on the ground to the left of it, with the 9th, 11th and 22d Regts. and Towson's artillery. The 25th had been thrown on the right to be governed by circumstances. Apprehending that these corps were much exhausted, and knowing that they had suffered severely, I determined to interpose a new line with the advancing troops, and thus disengage Gen. Scott and hold his Brigade in reserve. Orders were accordingly given to Gen. Ripley.—The enemy's artillery at this moment occupied a hill which gave him great advantages, and was the key of the whole position. It was supported by a line of infantry. To secure the victory, it was necessary to carry this artillery and seize the height. This duty was assigned to Col. Miller, while, to favor its execution, the 1st Regt. under the command of Col. Nicholas, was directed to menace and amuse the infantry. To my great mortification this Regiment, after a discharge or two, gave way and retreated some distance before it could be rallied, though it is believed the officers of the Regiment exerted themselves to shorten this distance. In the mean time, Col. Miller, without regard to this occurrence, advanced steadily and gallantly to his object and carried the height and the cannon. Gen. Ripley brought up the 23d (which had also faltered) to his support and the enemy disappeared from before them. The first Regiment was now brought into line on the left

of the 21st, and the detachments of the 17th and 19th, Gen. Porter occupying with his command, the extreme left. About this time Col. Miller carried the enemy's cannon. The 25th Regt. under Major Jessup, was engaged to a more obstinate conflict with all that remained to dispute with us the field of battle. The Major, as has been already stated, had been ordered by Gen. Scott, at the commencement of the action, to take ground to his right. He had succeeded in turning the enemy's left flank—had captured (by a detachment under Capt. Ketchum) Gen. Riall and sundry other officers, and showed himself again to his own army in a blaze of fire, which defeated or destroyed a very superior force of the enemy. He was ordered to form on the right of the second Regt. The enemy rallying his forces, and as is believed, having received reinforcements now attempted to drive us from our position, and regain his artillery. Our line was unshaken, and the enemy repulsed. Two other attempts having the same object, had the same issue. Gen. Scott was again engaged in repelling the former of these; and the last I saw of him on the field of battle, he was near the head of his column, and giving to its march a direction that would have placed him on the enemy's right. It was with great pleasure I saw the good order and intrepidity of Gen. Porter's volunteers from the moment of their arrival, but during the last charge of the enemy those qualities were conspicuous. Stimulated by the examples set them by their gallant leader, by Maj. Wood of the Pennsylvania corps, by Col. Dobbin of N. Y. and by their officers generally, they precipitated themselves upon the enemy's line, and made all the prisoners which were taken at this point of the action.

Having been for some time wounded, and being a good deal exhausted for loss of blood, it became my wish to devolve the command on General Scott, and retire from the field; but on enquiry, I had the misfortune to learn, that he was disabled from wounds; I therefore kept my post, and had the satisfaction to see the enemy's last effort repulsed. I now consigned the command to Gen. Ripley.

While retiring from the field, I saw and felt that the victory was complete on our part, if proper measures were promptly adopted to secure it. The exhaustion of the men, was however such as made some refreshment necessary.—They particularly required water. I was myself extremely sensible of the want of this necessary article. I therefore believed it proper that general Ripley and the troops should return to camp, after bringing off the dead, the wounded and artillery; and in this I saw no difficulty, as the enemy had entirely ceased to act. Within an hour after my arrival in Camp I was informed that Gen. Ripley had returned without annoyance & in good order; I now sent for him, and after giving him my reasons for the measure I was about to adopt, ordered him to put the troops in the best possible condition; to give to them the necessary refreshment; to take with him the picquets and camp guards, and every other description of force, to put himself on the field of battle as the day dawned, and there to meet and beat the enemy if he again appeared. To this order he made no objection, and I relied upon its execution. It was not executed. I feel most sensibly how inadequate are my powers in speaking of the troops, to do justice either to their merits or to my own sense of them. Under able direction, they might have done more and better.

From the preceding detail, you have now evidence of the distinguished gallantry of Generals Scott and Porter, of Colonel Miller and Major Jessup.

Of the 1st brigade, the Chief, with his Aid de Camp Worth, his Major of Brigade Smith, and every commander of battalion, were wounded.

The 2d brigade suffered less; but as a brigade, their conduct entitled them to the applause of their country. After the enemy's strong position had been carried by the 21st, and the detachments of the 17th and 19th, the 1st and 23d assumed a new character. They could not again be shaken or dismayed. Major M'Farland of the latter, fell nobly at the head of his battalion.

Under the command of General Porter, the militia volunteers of Pennsylvania and New-York stood undismayed amidst the hottest fire, and repulsed the veterans opposed to them. The Canadian volunteers, commanded by Colonel Wilson, are reported by General Porter as having merited, and received his approbation.

The corps of artillery commanded by Major Hindman behaved with its usual gallantry. Capt. Towson's company, attached to the first brigade was the first and the last engaged, and during the whole conflict maintained that high character which they had previously won by their skill and valor. Captains Biddle and Ritchie were both wounded early in the action, but refused to quit the field. The latter declared that he never would leave his piece; and, true to his engagement, fell by its side, covered with wounds.

The staff of the army had its peculiar merit and distinction. Colonel Gardner, Adjutant General, though ill, was on horseback and did all in his power; his assistant, Major Jones, was very active and useful. My gallant Aids-du-Camp, Austin and Spencer, had many critical duties to perform, in the discharge of which the latter fell; I shall ever think of this young man with pride and regret; regret, that his career has been so short; pride, that it has been so noble and distinguished. The Engineers, Major McRee and Wood, were greatly distinguished on this day, and their high military talents exerted with great effect—they were much under my eye and near my person, and to their assistance a great deal is fairly to be ascribed, I most earnestly recommend them, as worthy of the highest trust and confidence. The staff of Generals Ripley and Porter discovered great zeal and attention to duty. Lieutenant E. B. Randolph of the 20th Regiment is entitled to notice, his courage was conspicuous.

I enclose a return of our loss; those noted in missing, may generally be numbered with the dead. The enemy had but little opportunity of making prisoners.

I have the honor to be, sir, &c. &c.
JACOB BROWN.
Hon. JOHN ARMSTRONG,
Secretary at War.

Report of the Killed, wounded and missing of the Left Division of the Army commanded by Major General Brown, in the action of the afternoon and night of the 25th July, 1814, at the falls of Niagara.

Adj. General's Office, Fort Erie,
30th July, 1814.

General Staff—wounded, 1 Maj. General, 1 Aid de camp.
Light Dragoons—killed, 1 corporal, wounded, 2 privates.

Artillery—killed, 1 captain, 1 corporal, 8 privates—wounded, 1 captain, 2 subalterns, 1 sergeant, 2 corporals, 1 musician, 28 privates—missing, 1 private.

First, or Brig. Gen. Scott's Brigade.
Brigade Staff—wounded, 1 brigadier general, 1 aid de camp, 1 brigade major.

9th Infantry—killed, 1 captain, 2 subalterns, 1 sergeant, 1 corporal, 11 privates—wounded, 1 major, 1 quartermaster, 1 paymaster, 1 captain, 5 subalterns, 7 sergeants, 5 corporals, 60 privates—missing, 1 subaltern, 1 sergeant major, 2 sergeants, 11 privates.

11th Infantry—killed, 1 captain, 1 sergeant, 4 corporals, 21 privates—wounded, 1 major, 1 captain, 5 subalterns, 1 sergeant major, 1 chief musician, 82 privates—missing, 1 subaltern, 2 privates.

22d Infantry—killed, 2 sergeants, 1 corporal, 33 privates—wounded, 1 colonel, 2 captains, 4 subalterns, 9 sergeants, 11 corporals, 1 musician, 62 privates—missing, 3 subalterns, 2 sergeants, 12 privates.

25th Infantry—killed, 1 captain, 1 subaltern, 26 privates—wounded, 1 major, 1 adjutant, 1 quartermaster, 1 subaltern, 6 sergeants, 6 corporals, 50 privates—missing, 1 sergeant, 2 corporals, 19 privates.

Second, or Brig. Gen. Ripley's brigade.

1st Infantry—killed, 11 privates—wounded, 2 subalterns, 18 privates—missing, 1 corporal, 1 private.

21st Infantry—killed, 1 subaltern, 2 sergeants, 1 corporal, 11 privates—wounded, 1 captain, 5 subalterns, 1 sergeant, 63 privates—missing, 19 privates.

23d Infantry—killed, 1 major, 2 sergeants, 7 privates—wounded, 1 captain, 6 subalterns, 1 sergeant, 1 corporal, 43 privates—missing, 3 sergeants, 2 corporals, 22 privates.

Brig. Gen. Porter's command.

Brigade Staff—1 brigade major missing.

Canadian Volunteers—killed, 1 private—wounded, 2 privates—missing, 8 privates.
Pennsylvania Volunteers—killed, 1 adjutant, 1 sergeant, 9 privates—wounded, 1 major, 1 quartermaster, 1 subaltern, 21 privates—missing, 1 captain.