

up in a manner, perhaps, never before witnessed—in fine I saw no hopes of saving her, and at 20 minutes after 6 P. M. gave the painful order to strike the colors. 75 men, including officers, were all that remained of my whole crew, after the action, capable of doing duty, and many of them severely wounded, some of whom have since died. The enemy still continued his fire, and my brave, tho' unfortunate companions were still falling about me. I directed an opposite gun to be fired to shew them we intended no further resistance; but they did not desist; four men were killed at my side, and others in different parts of the ship. I now believed he intended to shew us no quarters, and that it would be as well for me to die with my flag flying as struck, and was on the point of again hoisting it, when about ten minutes after hauling the colors down he ceased firing.

I cannot speak in sufficiently high terms of the conduct of those engaged for such an unparalleled length of time (under such circumstances) with me in the arduous and unequal contest. Let it suffice to say that more bravery, skill, patriotism and zeal were never displayed on any occasion. Every one seemed determined to die in defence of their much loved country's cause, and nothing but views to humanity could ever have reconciled them to the surrender of the ship; they remembered their wounded and helpless shipmates below. To acting Lieutenants M'Knight and Odenheimer I feel much indebted for their great exertions and bravery throughout the action, in fighting and encouraging the men at their divisions, for the dextrous management of the long guns, and for their promptness in re-manning their guns as their crews were slaughtered. The conduct of Lt. brave and heroic officer, acting Lieut. John G. Cowell, who lost his leg in the latter part of the action, excited the admiration of every man in the ship, and after being wounded would not consent to be taken below until loss of blood rendered him insensible. Mr. Edward Barnewell, acting sailing master, whose activity and courage was equally conspicuous, returned on deck after his first wound, and remained after receiving his second, until fainting with loss of blood. Mr. Samuel B. Johnston who had joined me the day before, and acted as marine officer, conducted himself with great bravery, and exerted himself in assisting at the long guns; the musketry after the first half hour being useless (from our long distance).

Mr. M. W. Bostwick, whom I had appointed acting purser of the Essex Junior, and who was on board my ship, did the duties of aid, in a manner which reflects on him the highest honour, and Midshipman Isaacs, Farragut and O'Gden, as well as Acting Midshipman James Terry, James R. Lyman and Samuel Duzenbury, and Master's Mate William Pierce exerted themselves in the performance of their duties and gave an earnest of their value to the service; the three first are too young to recommend for promotion, the latter I beg leave to recommend for confirmation, as well as the acting lieutenants, and Messrs. Barnewell, Johnston and Bostwick.

We have been unfortunate, but not disgraced—the defence of the Essex has not been less honorable to her officers and crew, than the capture of an equal force, and I now consider my situation less unpleasant than that of Commodore Hillyar, who, in violation of every principle of honor and generosity, and regardless of the rights of nations, attacked the Essex in her crippled state, within pistol shot of a neutral shore; when for six weeks I had daily offered him fair and honorable combat, on terms greatly to his advantage; the blood of the slain must be on his head, and he has yet to reconcile his conduct to Heaven, to his conscience and to the world.

My loss has been dreadfully severe, 52 killed or have since died of their wounds, and among them Lt. Cowell; 29 were severely wounded, 26 slightly, and 31 are missing; making in all 154, killed, wounded, and missing, a list of whose names is annexed.

The personal knowledge of Doctor Richard Hoffman, acting Surgeon, and Doctor Alexander Montgomery, acting Surgeon's Mate, added to their assiduity and the benevolent intentions and assistance of Mr. Dr. P. Adams, the Chaplain, saved the lives of many of the wounded; these gentlemen have been indefatigable in their attentions to them: the two first I beg leave to recommend for confirmation, and the latter to the notice of the department.

I must in justification of myself observe that with our six twelve pounders only we fought this action, our caronades being almost useless.

The loss of killed and wounded has been great with the enemy; among the former is the first Lieutenant of the Phoebe, and of the latter Capt. Tucker of the Cherub, whose wounds are severe. Both the Essex and Phoebe were in a sinking state, and it was with difficulty they could be kept afloat until they anchored in Valparaiso next morning. The battered state of the Essex will, I believe, prevent her ever reach-

ing England, and I also think it will be out of their power to repair the damages of the Phoebe, so as to enable her to double Cape Horn. All the masts and yards of the Phoebe and Cherub are badly crippled, and their hulls much cut up; the former had 18 twelve pound shot through her below her water line, some three feet under water. Nothing but the smoothness of the water saved both the Phoebe and the Essex.

I hope, sir, that our conduct may prove satisfactory to our country, and that it will testify it by obtaining our speedy exchange, that we may again have it in our power to prove our zeal. Commodore Hillyar (I am informed) has thought proper to state to his government that the action only lasted 45 minutes! Should he have done so, the motive may be easily discovered—but the thousands of disinterested witnesses who covered the surrounding hills can testify that we fought his ships near two hours and an half; upwards of fifty broadsides were fired by the enemy agreeable to their own accounts, and upwards of seventy-five by ours; except the few minutes they were repairing damages, the firing was incessant.

Soon after my capture I entered into an agreement with Commodore Hillyar to disarm my prize the Essex Junior, and proceed with the survivors of my officers and crew in her to the United States, taking with me all her officers and crew. He consented to grant her a passport to secure her from a re-capture.

The ship was small and we knew we had much to suffer, yet we hoped soon to reach our country in safety, that we might again have it in our power to serve it. This arrangement was attended with no additional expense, as she was abundantly supplied with provisions and stores for the voyage.

In justice to Commodore Hillyar, I observe that, (although I can never be reconciled to the manner of his attack on the Essex, or to his conduct before the action,) he has, since our capture, shewn the greatest humanity to my wounded (whom he permitted me land, on condition that the United States should bear their expenses,) and has endeavoured as much as lay in his power to alleviate the distresses of war by the most generous and delicate deportment towards myself, my officers and crew; he gave orders that the property of every person should be respected—his orders, however, were not so strictly attended to as might have been expected; besides being deprived of books, charts, &c. &c. both myself and officers lost many articles of our clothing, some to a considerable amount. I should not have considered this last circumstance of sufficient importance to notice, did it not mark a striking difference between the Navy of Great Britain and that of the U. States, highly creditable to the latter.

By the arrival of the Tagus, a few days after my capture, I was informed that besides the ships which had arrived in the Pacific in pursuit of me, and those still expected, others were sent to cruise for me in the China Seas, off New Zealand, Timor and New Holland, and that another frigate was sent to the River la Plata.

To possess the Essex it has cost the British Government near six millions of dollars, and yet, sir, her capture was owing entirely to accident; and if we consider the expedition with which naval contests are now decided, the action is a dishonour to them. Had they brought their ships boldly into action with a force so very superior, & having the choice of position, they should either have captured or destroyed us in one fourth the time they were about it.

During the action, our consul General Mr. Poinsett called on the governor of Valparaiso, and requested that the batteries might protect the Essex. This request was refused, but he promised that if she should succeed in fighting her way to the common anchorage, he would send an officer to the British Commander and request him to cease firing, but declined using force under any circumstances, and there is no doubt a perfect understanding existed between them; this conduct added to the assistance given to the British, and their friendly reception after the action, and the strong bias of the faction which governs Chili in favor of the English, as well as their hostility to the Americans, induced Mr. Poinsett to leave that country. Under such circumstances I did not conceive it would be proper for me to claim the restoration of my ship, confident that the claim would be made by my government to more effect. Finding some difficulty in the sale of my prizes, I had taken the Hector and Catharine to sea and burnt them with their cargoes.

I exchanged Lieut. M'Knight, Mr. Adams, and Mr. Lyman, and eleven Seamen for part of the crew of the Sir Andrew Hammond, and sailed from Valparaiso on the 27th April, where the enemy were still patching up their ships to put them in a state for proceeding to Rio de Janeiro previous to going to England.

The prisoners I have taken during my cruise amounts to 343.

I have the honor to be &c.

D. PORTER.

The Hon. Secretary of the Navy of the U. S. Washington.

Copy of a letter from Major General BROWN, to the Secretary of War—dated

HEAD QUARTERS, CHIPPewa PLAINS, July 7, 1814.

DEAR SIR—On the 2d inst. I issued my orders for crossing the Niagara river, and made the arrangements deemed necessary for securing the garrison at Fort Erie. On the 3d, that garrison surrendered at 5 P. M. Our loss in this affair was four of the 25th Regt. under Major Jessup, of Brig. General Scott's brigade, wounded. I have enclosed a return of the prisoners, of the ordnance and ordnance stores captured.

To secure my rear, I have placed a garrison in this fort, and requested Capt. Kennedy to station his vessels near the post.

On the morning of the 4th, Brig. Gen. Scott with his brigade and a corps of artillery was ordered to advance towards Chippewa, and be governed by circumstances; taking care to secure a military position for the night. After some skirmishing with the enemy he selected this plan with the eye of a soldier, his right resting on the river, and a ravine in front. At 11 at night, I joined him with the reserve under Gen. Ripley, our field and battering train, and corps of artillery under Major Hindmon. General Porter arrived the next morning with a part of the New York and Pennsylvania volunteers, and some of the warriors of the Six Nations.

Early on the morning of the 5th, the enemy commenced a petty war upon our pickets, and, as he was indulged, his presumption increased; by noon he shewed himself on the left of our exterior line, and attacked one of our pickets as it was returning to camp.

Capt. Treat, who commanded it, retired disgracefully, leaving a wounded man on the ground. Capt. Biddle of the artillery, who was near the scene, impelled by feelings highly honorable to him as a soldier and officer, promptly assumed the command of this picket, led it back to the wounded man, and brought him off the field. I ordered Capt. Treat, on the spot, to retire from the army, and as I am anxious that no officer shall remain under my command who can be suspected of cowardice, I advise that Capt. Treat, and Lieut. *—, who was also with the picket, be struck from the rolls of the army.

At 4 o'clock in the afternoon, agreeable to a plan I had given General Porter, he advanced from the rear of our camp, with the volunteers and Indians, (taking the woods in order to keep out of view of the enemy,) with the hope of bringing his pickets and scouting parties between his [Porter's] line of march, and our camp.—As Porter moved, I ordered the parties advanced in front of our camp to fall back gradually, under the enemy's fire, in order to draw him if possible, up to our line. About half past four, the advance of General Porter's command met the light parties of the enemy in the woods, upon our extreme left. The enemy were driven, and Porter advancing near to Chippewa, met their whole column in order of battle. From the cloud of dust rising, and the heavy fire, I was led to conclude that the entire force of the enemy was in march, and prepared for action. I immediately ordered Gen. Scott to advance with his brigade, and Towson's artillery, and meet them upon the plain in front of our camp.—The general did not expect to be gratified so soon with a field engagement. He advanced in the most prompt and officer-like style, and in a few minutes was in close action upon the plain, with a superior force of British regular troops. By this time, Gen. Porter's command had given way and fled in every direction, notwithstanding his personal gallantry, and great exertions to stay their flight. The retreat of the volunteers and Indians caused the left flank of General Scott's brigade to be greatly exposed, Capt. Harris, with his dragoons, was directed to stop the fugitives, behind the ravine fronting our camp; and I sent Col. Gardner to order Gen. Ripley to advance with the 21st regt. which formed part of the reserve, pass to the left of our camp, skirt the woods, so as to keep out of view, and fall upon the rear of the enemy's right flank.—This order was promptly obeyed, and the greatest exertions were made by the 21st regiment to gain their position, and close with the enemy; but in vain—for such was the zeal and gallantry of the line commanded by Gen. Scott, that its advance upon the enemy was not to be checked. Major Jessup commanded the left flank battalion, finding himself pressed in front and in flank, and his men falling fast around him—ordered his battalion to "support arms and advance"—the order was promptly obeyed, amidst the most deadly and destructive fire. He gained a more secure position, and returned upon the enemy so galling a discharge, as caused them to retire. By this time, their whole line was falling back and our gallant soldiers pressing upon them as fast as possible. As soon as the enemy had gained the sloping ground descending towards Chippewa, and distant a quarter of a mile,

he broke and ran to gain his works.—In this effort he was too successful, & the guns from his battery opened upon our line, checked in some degree the pursuit. At this moment, I resolved to bring up all my ordnance and force the place by a direct attack, and gave the order accordingly. Major Wood of the corps of engineers, and my aid, Capt. Austin, rode to the bank of the creek towards the right of their line of works, and examined them. I was induced by their report, the lateness of the hour, and the advice of Gen. Scott and Major Wood, to order the forces to retire to camp.

My most difficult duty remains to be performed—I am depressed with the fear of not being able to do justice to my brave companions in arms, and apprehensive, that some who had an opportunity of distinguishing themselves, and promptly embraced it, will escape my notice.

Brig. Gen. Scott is entitled to the highest praises our country can bestow—no him more than any other man I am indebted for the victory of the 5th July. His brigade has covered itself with glory. Every officer and every man of the 9th, 11th, 22d and 25th Regiments did his duty, with a zeal and energy, worthy of the American character. When every officer stands so pre-eminently high in the path of duty, and honor it is impossible to discriminate, but I cannot deprive myself of the pleasure of saying that Major Levenworth commanded the 9th and 22d, Major Jessup the 25th, and Major M'Neil the 11th. Col. Campbell was wounded early in the action, gallantly leading on his regiment.

The family of General Scott were conspicuous in the field; Lieut. Smith of the 6th Infantry, Major of brigade, and Lieuts. Watts and Worth his aids. From General Ripley and his brigade, I received every assistance that I gave them an opportunity of rendering. I did not order any part of the reserve into action, until General Porter's command had given way, and then Gen. Scott's movements were so rapid and decisive, that General Ripley, could not get up in time with the 21st, to the position as directed. The corps of artillery under Major Hindmon, were not generally in action.—this was not their fault—Capt. Towson's company was the only one that had a full opportunity of distinguishing itself, and it is believed that no company ever embraced an opportunity with more zeal, or more success.

A detachment from the 2d brigade under the command of Lieut. M'Donald, penetrated the woods with the Indians and volunteers, and for their support, The conduct of M'Donald and his command reflects high honor to the Brigade to which they belong.

The conduct of General Porter has been conspicuously gallant. Every assistance in his power to afford, with the description of force under his command, has been rendered. We could not expect him to contend with the British column of Regulars, which appeared upon the plains of Chippewa. It was no cause of surprize to me, to see his command retire from the column.

Justice forbids that I should omit to name my own family. They yield to none in honorable zeal, intelligence and attention to duty. Col. Gardner, Maj. Jones and my aids, Capt. Austin and Spencer, have been as active and as staunch devoted to the cause as any officers of the army. Their conduct merits my warmest acknowledgments; of Gardner and Jones I shall have occasion again to speak to you.

Maj. Camp, Deputy Quarter Master General, deserves my particular notice and approbation. By his great exertion I was enabled to find the means of crossing. Capt. Daiba of the ordnance department has rendered every service in his power.

The enclosed return will shew you our loss and furnish you with the names of the dead and wounded officers.—These gallant men must not be forgotten. Our country will remember them and do them justice.

Respectfully and truly yours,
JACOB BROWN.
Hon. John Armstrong,
Secretary at War.

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Head Quarters, Left Division,
Chippewa, 9th July, 1814.

Return of the killed, wounded and prisoners of the enemy in the action of the 5th inst. fought on the plains within half a mile of Chippewa, between the Left Division of the United States Army commanded by Maj. Gen. Brown, and the English forces under the command of Maj. Gen. Rial.

Killed, 3 Captains, 3 sub. and 87 rank and file of the regular troops.

Wounded, 2 Captains of the 1st Royal Scots, 1 Lieut. of the 100th Regt. and 92 rank and file of the Royal Scots, 8th and 100th Regts.

Prisoners, 1 Captain of the Indians, and 9 rank and file of the regulars.

Killed in the woods, of the Indians 87 of the militia and regulars 18.

Indian prisoners, 1 Chief and 4 privates.

* This name omitted in the letter.

RECAPITULATION.
Capts. Sub. Rank & File.
Killed, 3 3 192
Wounded & Prisoners, } 2 1 92
Prisoners, 1 14
6 4 291

Total of the enemy placed *Hors de Combat* that we have ascertained beyond a doubt, 6 Capts. 4 Sub. and 298 rank and file. Those reported under the head of *wounded and prisoners* were so severely injured that it would have been impracticable for them to have escaped. The enemy had the same facilities of carrying their wounded from the field at the commencement of the action as ourselves, and there can be no doubt, from the information that I have received from unquestionable sources, that they carried from the field as many of their wounded as are reported above in the total.

AZ. ORNE, *Asst. Ins. Gen.*
Major General BROWN.

Report of the killed and wounded of the Left Division commanded by Major General Brown in the action of the 5th July, 1814, on the plains of Chippewa, U. C.

Head Quarters, Camp Chippewa,
7th July, 1814.

ARTILLERY.

Killed—4 privates; wounded severely, 3 corporals, 5 privates; 8 privates slightly.

GEN. SCOTT'S BRIGADE.

9th Infantry—Killed, 2 musicians, 11 privates—wounded severely, 1 captain, 2 subalterns, 2 corporals, 19 privates—slightly, 2 sergeants, 19 privates.

22d Infantry attached—killed, 8 privates—wounded severely, 1 captain, 6 privates—slightly, 2 sergeants, 33 privates.

11th Infantry—killed, 1 sergeant, 4 corporals, 10 privates—wounded severely, 1 colonel, 1 subaltern, 3 sergeants, 5 Corporals, 28 privates—slightly, 3 sergeants, 19 privates.

23d Infantry—killed, 1 sergeant, 4 privates—wounded severely, 1 captain, 2 subalterns, 5 sergeants, 2 corporals, 37 privates—slightly, 2 sergeants, 2 corporals, 1 musician, 19 privates.

OF GEN. RIPLEY'S BRIGADE.

21st regt. none—19th Infantry attached—killed, 3 privates—severely wounded, 2 privates—missing, 2.

23d Infantry—severely wounded, 1 private.

OF GEN. P. B. PORTER'S COMMAND.

Fenton's regiment of Pennsylvania Militia—killed, 3 privates—severely wounded, 1 private—slightly, 1 private—missing, 3 officers, 4 non-commissioned officers and privates.

Corps of Indians—killed, 9 privates, severely wounded, 4—slightly 4—missing, 10.

Grand Total—2 sergeants, 4 corporals, 3 musicians, 52 privates, killed. 1 colonel, 3 captains, 5 subalterns, 3 sergeants, 12 corporals, 105 privates, severely wounded.

9 sergeants, 2 corporals, 1 musician, 103 privates, slightly wounded.

3 officers, 16 non-commissioned officers and privates missing.

Total, non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates, 316.

Aggregate 528.

Names and rank of officers wounded

Col. Campbell, 11th Inf. severely; knee-pan fractured.

Captain King, 22d Infantry; dangerously; shot wound in the abdomen.

Capt. Read, 35th Inf. badly; flesh wound in the thigh.

Capt. Harrison, 42d, doing duty in the 9th Infantry, severely; thigh amputated.

Lieut. Palmer, Adjutant of 9th Inf. severely; shot wound in the shoulder.

Lt. Barron, 11th Infantry, severely.

Lt. De Witt, 25th Inf. severely.

Lt. Patchin, 25th Inf. badly; flesh wound in the thigh.

Lt. Brimhall, 9th Inf. slightly.

NOTE. The slightly wounded are fast recovering.

C. K. GARDNER, *Adj. Gen.*

INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE.
Head Quarters, Left Division,
Camp near Fort Erie, July 3d.

Return of the British prisoners of war who surrendered by capitulation with Fort Erie on the afternoon of the 3d July, 1814, to the Left Division of the United States army under the command of Major General Brown.

8th or King's Regt. 1 Major.

Royal Artillery, 1 lieut. 1 corporal 1 bomb. and 19 gunners.

100th Regt. 1 capt. 2 lieuts. 1 ens. 4 sergts. 5 corp. 3 mus. 93 privates.

RECAPITULATION.

8th Regt. 1 Major.

Royal Artillery, 1 subaltern, 1 corp. 1 bomb. 19 gunners.

100th Regt. 1 capt. 3 sub. 4 sergts. 5 corp. 3 mus. 98.

Aggregate 137.

AZ. ORNE, *Asst. Ins. Gen.*
Major General BROWN.

Baltimore, July 21.

An express arrived in this city this morning to General Windor, announcing that the British have landed about 300 men and taken Leonardtown.