

evening I received a letter at Williamsville, my Headquarters, from Genl. Gaines, dated the 14th inst., in which he states that from information received from you he is induced to believe that the Enemy are three thousand strong at Kingston, that their old Fleet was drawn out and that an attack on Sackett's Harbor was expected in the course of a day or two from that time. You never intimated to me a doubt of your ability to face the Enemy at any moment after the Ice was out and I must confess that I was so confident of your strength by water that I did not expect there would be any alarm for that post during your continuance in its neighbourhood, of which I had no doubt until the new ship was completed. I should have been very much gratified by receiving a letter from you, showing how the great change in the relative strength of Sackett's Harbor and Kingston is to be accounted for since I had the pleasure of seeing you. You then mentioned that by the last advices from Kingston there was no reason to believe that the Enemy had at that post to exceed from 14 to 1500 men of the Army and had you expressed a doubt for the security of the position so interesting to you particularly, and to all of us, I believe that you will not doubt that I would have been disposed to stay with you, notwithstanding your unhesitating opinion that the orders I rec'd made it my duty to march to this frontier.

The letter of General Gaines has rendered me very anxious and unhappy and I pray to God that what he appears to apprehend may not take place. All that I could do with any prospect of being useful has been done. The mounted Dragoons have been ordered to return with all possible expedition and the Recruits in the neighbourhood of Utica have been ordered to your assistance.

Genl. Gaines will have called in every soldier he can reach and will accept of such Militia Volunteers as may have the patriotism to offer themselves, or that he can induce to arm in defence of their country. The troops from this frontier could not by any possibility be expected to reach you in time. Should the Enemy presume to land in defiance of your means, I can but hope and believe that you will immortalize yourself and should they get on shore, it does appear to me that Gaines will be able to place the army on higher ground than it yet has stood. Let me again entreat you to write me fully on this