

to General Van Rensselaer, he says: "I reached Queenston early in the morning of the 12th. . . . And when about leaving Hamilton's house (Capt. Dennis' quarters) a scattered fire of musketry from the American shore took place, and on a ball entering the room, passing between us, I enquired, with surprise, the meaning of such unusual insolence. Capt. Dennis stating the practice to have existed more or less for some days, insomuch as to render ingress by the river door hazardous, I deemed it fitting first to cross the river. . . . I now begged Mrs. Dickson kindly to prepare a white handkerchief as a flag of truce, asking Mr. Dickson, who was a Captain of Militia, would he accompany me across the water. . . . I took Dickson by one hand and the flag in the other. We launched our frail canoe amidst an unsparing shower of shot which fell all around us; nor did the firing cease till the canoe became quite unmanageable, tossed about in the waters of the strong eddies; when, as if struck by shame at his dastardly attempt to deter us from our purpose, the enemy gave the signal to cease firing. I was thus relieved, and enabled on approaching the shore to observe more calmly all that was passing. On touching the ground, with water in the leaky canoe ankle deep, I was about, as was my custom, leaping ashore, when a sentinel from a guard brought to the spot, came to the charge with fixed bayonet, authoritatively commanded me not to leave the boat. To my inquiry for Colonel Solomon Van Rensselaer (the Adjutant-General), with whom I usually conferred, I was told he was sick. I then stated having an important message from General Brock for their commander, which, if inconvenient for their General to receive from me personally, I begged an official person might be immediately deputed to convey it to him. After some delay, Mr. Tooche, the General's secretary, made his appearance, but his reply to General Brock's request being abrupt, and as I thought somewhat significant—'that nothing could be done till the day after to-morrow'—I ventured to remind him of General Brock's liberality towards their people which the fortune of war had thrown into his hands, entreating that he would again consult his General, and enable me to carry to mine something more satisfactory." (Col. Evan's message to Gen. Van Rensselaer was requesting the immediate exchange of the prisoners taken in the *Detroit* and *Caledonia* for an equal number of Americans Brock had released after the capture of Detroit.) "In compliance, as he stated, with my wishes, but more as it appears to be with an intent to consume my time, rendered precious from its being after midday, he detained me in my miserable position for two hours, and then returned, expressing the General's regret 'that the prisoners having been marched for Albany they could not instantly be brought back, but that I might assure General Brock, with his respects, that all should be settled to their mutual satisfaction the day after to-morrow.' I was now too anxious to depart to wish the parley prolonged, my mind being quite made up as to the enemy's intentions,