

24th of September, 1793, Governor Carleton gives the following meagre account of the alarm which the presence of the French at New York caused in St. John :—

“Intelligence of this event had been, as you expected, received here, and had occasioned a serious alarm in the city of St. John ; upon which I repaired thither, and thought it necessary to throw up some works for the defence of that place. This has been accomplished in such a manner as I think will be sufficient to secure the town and harbor against any naval enterprise that might otherwise have been apprehended ; and I have the satisfaction to add that this service has been attended with no expense to Government.”*

Early in October intelligence was received at Halifax, and forwarded from there by Governor Wentworth to Governor Carleton, that the French fleet at New York was nearly ready for sea, and its destination “not known but supposed to be against his majesty’s American Provinces.” Although this intelligence created great excitement among the inhabitants, all classes loyally supported Governor Carleton in his exertions to defend the Province. On the 21st of October, before the departure of the French fleet was known in New Brunswick, Governor Carleton, writing to Lord Dorchester, briefly describes the situation in St. John during the summer and autumn of 1793 :—

FREDERICTON, 21st October, 1793.

MY LORD,—I have the honor to inclose a letter which I have this day received from the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, communicating intelligence respecting the preparations now making by the French at New York.

Reports of a similar nature have been repeatedly circulated here in the course of the last summer, and although I did not suppose the Province of New Brunswick was the object at which the French aimed, I considered it my duty to guard, as far as possible, against any desultory attacks. For this purpose I ordered forty Artillery men and a detachment, consisting of about eighty men, of the King’s New Brunswick Regiment, commanded by Major Murray, to St. John, having Captain Clinch’s Company at the frontier of Passamaquoddy, and the remainder of that Regiment at this place and the upper posts. I also called out and reviewed the Militia of the City of St. John, amounting to 511 effective sergeants, rank and file, who readily undertook to prepare fascines and to throw up some temporary works to cover the guns which were placed in advantageous situations for the defence of the harbor. In the present situation of the Province, it was not possible for me to adopt any other measures. The want of arms effectually prevented me from availing myself of the Militia of the country.

I shall reinforce the post at St. John by every means in my power, and am on the point of setting out myself for that place.

* Canadian Archives, 1891, p. 48.