

6 GEORGE V, A. 1916

Your Signifying to me the place you shall Determine as most Agreeable for your Residence, and Giving your Parole conformable to the Resolutions of Congress, are the only Requisites previous to your Departure to the Town of your Choice.

Should you be desirous of Communicating any Matter to Congress, I shall, on being Acquainted with it, Lay it before them, and with pleasure inform you the Result—

I am Sir

Your most Obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>

John Hancock Presid<sup>t</sup>

Major Preston

St John's the 17<sup>th</sup> September 1775

Our Redouts were at this time (if not finish'd) at least in a very defensible State; the Insides of the parapet and the Embrasures were sodded: The ditch was frais'd and the Guns mounted, these it is true on very bad platforms. We had two eight Inch Howitz and 8 royal or Cahorn Mortars, about 30 pieces of Cannon, among which were two light brass 24 lbs, 6 Iron 9 lb. The rest were of Smaller Calibres, and chiefly brass. The Schooner which before the Redouts carried 12 Guns and was finish'd. The Row Galley which was launch'd soon after carried one brass 24 lb. The Garrison consisted of

Officers are	{	Fuziliers . . . . .	239
not	{	26 <sup>th</sup> Reg <sup>t</sup> . . . . .	198
included	{	R. Emigrants . . . . .	18
		Volunteers . . . . .	71
		R. Artillery . . . . .	31
			—
			557
		On board the Vessels . . . . .	10
		Carpenters . . . . .	
Of these	{	In all	
did duty	}		

We had besides these, or rather were encumber'd with about 40 Women & as many children, whom we were now oblig'd to take within the Forts from huts around them, where they had hitherto liv'd.

The whole amounting to \_\_\_\_\_ souls were contain'd in a Barrack built for 25 Men, a barn, and a large house belonging to Col<sup>l</sup>: Christie & a M<sup>r</sup> Hazen. It was round these buildings that the Redouts were thrown up and these were the work of 200 Men since the month of July.

The Men had neither Bedding, Straw or Blankets; for about 20 between near 200 men deserve not to be mention'd.

Provisions and a quantity of blankets which were on the way to St Johns were seiz'd by the rebels, a loss of great Importance in a Climate where the nights of September and October are as cold as those of the two succeeding Months in England.

17<sup>th</sup>—At about two oClock this Afternoon a few Batteaux appear'd off Point Daniel about 1½ Miles from the Fort, and our Guard Boat cou'd perceive a Sloop, a Schooner, Gondolas, pettiangers, and a great many Batteaux. The Vessels were at Anchor and Men were landing from Boats. The Gondola's advanc'd a little and fir'd several Shot at the Guard Boats and at the Forts whilst we sent them some Howitz Shells from one of these pieces of Artillery which Capt<sup>n</sup> Williams had fixt so as to serve as a Mortar.