

## No. 9.—HON. JAMES BABY TO LIEUT.-GOV. GORE.

*(Archives, series Q., vol. 107, p. 247.)*

May it please Your Excellency:

In my last letter, I entreated to receive further Instructions for my conduct. I am now more in want than ever to know your Excellency's intentions and hope will be deemed a sufficient apology for my sending the present express.

On the 14th instant I called jointly with my Brother on the commanding officer of Amherstburg and consulted with him as to the propriety of calling out the Detachments we have received Orders to prepare and placing them at that Post in case of the arrival of the Reinforcement our neighbours expect from different parts, in addition to which they have within this last week raised two hundred men now on actual duty at Detroit. His answer was that he had no orders to receive any body of men in his Garrison and on the subject of provisions he said he would feel a scarcity by the great quantity daily consumed by the Indians and the non-arrival of the snow, the General Hunter, which from the lateness of the season we need not look for. The Colonel read to us the Orders he had got for the distribution of arms, which seemed to leave it to him to deliver them, when he may see occasion for. He recommended us at the same time to address ourselves to your Excellency.

I am at a loss what construction is to be put on the words *emergency* or *actual necessity*, if there be no formal declaration of war. In a few days our neighbours will in all probability have a force of from five to seven hundred effective men exclusive of their non drafted militia; this number will have the advantage over us of being drilled and disciplined. On the first news of a war they may overpower us before we could collect our own numbers, amounting in all as drafted, to one hundred and sixty or eighty men, some of who are spread over an extent of more than sixty miles from Sandwich or Amherstburgh.

It would greatly relieve my embarrassment and anxiety if your Excellency would be pleased to point out what course must be followed in what I beg leave to refer to your Excellency's consideration that is, if on the arrival of any extraordinary force, or of levying a greater number of men at Detroit, we should be justifiable in calling out the Detachment of the Militia, were we to wait until hostilities or for a declaration of war and at the same time upon whom is to devolve the finding the militia with provisions and other necessaries, if we should think ourselves sufficiently strong to guard the settlement opposite the Americans Garrison of Detroit, or otherwise to repair wherever necessity might direct.

I have come to this river to Review the Militia according to your Excellency's orders and it is with satisfaction I can state to your Excellency that the people of the county of Kent have appeared in a loyal manner. They have nearly all offered themselves as volunteers. One fourth of the whole is now in readiness for service.

My Brother having no opportunity to write, I may perhaps be permitted to say that I was present at the Review at Amherstburgh where the people of Essex exhibited great zeal and alacrity, offering themselves also as volunteers.

I have &c.

J. BABY.

RALEIGH, RIVER THAMES,  
18th December, 1807.