

GENERAL DEARBORN TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

"HEADQUARTERS, FORT GEORGE, }
 "June 25th, 1813. }

"SIR,—I have the mortification of informing you of an unfortunate and unaccountable event which occurred yesterday. On the 23rd, at evening, Lieutenant Colonel Boerstler, with 570 men, infantry, artillery, cavalry, and riflemen in due proportion, was ordered to march, by way of Queenston, to a place called the Beaver Dams, on the high ground about eight or nine miles from Queenston, to attack and disperse a body of the enemy collected there for the purpose of procuring provisions and harassing those inhabitants who are considered friendly to the United States; their force was, from the most direct information, composed of one company of the 104th regiment, about 80 strong, from 150 to 200 militia, and from 50 to 60 Indians. At eight o'clock yesterday morning, when within two miles of the Beaver Dams, our detachment was attacked from an ambuscade, but soon drove the enemy some distance into the woods, and then retired into a clear field and sent an express for reinforcement, saying he would maintain his position until reinforced. A reinforcement of three hundred men marched immediately, under the command of Colonel Chrystie, but on arriving at Queenston, Colonel Chrystie received authentic information that Lieutenant Colonel Boerstler, with his command, had surrendered to the enemy, and the reinforcements returned to camp. A man who belonged to a small corps of mounted volunteer riflemen, came in this morning, who states that the enemy surrounded our detachment in the woods, and towards 12 o'clock commenced a general attack; that our troops fought more than two hours, until the artillery had expended the whole of its ammunition, and then surrendered, and at the time of the surrender the informant made his escape. Why it should have been deemed proper to remain several hours in a position surrounded with woods without either risking a decisive action or effecting a retreat remains to be accounted for, as well as the project of waiting for a reinforcement from a distance of fifteen or sixteen miles.

"No information has been received of the killed and wounded. The enemy's fleet has again arrived in our neighborhood.

"With respect and esteem, I am, Sir,

"Your humble servant,

"H. DEARBORN."

REPORT OF COURT OF INQUIRY.

"BALTIMORE, 17th February, 1815.

"The court met pursuant to adjournment.

"The court having heard and considered the testimony adduced in this case, have the honor to report to the Honorable, the Secretary of War, the following statement of facts: