

I should have derived much consolation in the midst of my present difficulties had I been honored, previous to the meeting of the Legislature; with Your Excellency's determination in regard to this Province—That it cannot be maintained with its present force is very obvious, and unless the enemy be driven from Sandwich it will be impossible to avert much longer the impending ruin of the Country—numbers have already joined the invading army, commotions are excited, and the late occurrences at Sandwich have spread a general gloom

I have not heard from L^t Colonel S^t George, nor from any individual at Amherstburg, since I last had the honor of addressing Your Excellency, which makes me apprehensive that Colonel Procter has been detained on his journey too long for the good of the service—

The enemy's cavalry amounts to about fifty. They are led by one Watson, a surveyor from Montreal, of a desperate character, This fellow has been allowed to parade with about 20 men of the same description as far as Westminster, vowing as they went along the most bitter vengeance against the first characters of the Province—Nothing can more strongly shew the state of apathy which exists in that part of the Country—I am perhaps too liberal in attributing the conduct of the inhabitants to that cause

M^r Couche¹ has represented to the head of his department the total impracticability of carrying on the public service without a remittance in specie, or a government paper substitute—He was once in expectation of making arrangements with some individuals that would have enabled him to proceed, but I much fear the whole project has fallen to the ground—The Militia on this Communication was so clamourous for their pay that I directed M^r Couche to make the necessary advances. This has drained him of the little specie in his possession—

My present Civil office not only authorizes me to convene General Courts Martial for the trial of offenders belonging to the Militia but likewise the infliction of the sentence of death—whilst in regard to the Military my power is limited to the mere assembling of the court. I beg leave to submit to the consideration of Your Excellency whether in time like the present I ought not to be invested with equal authority over each service—

¹ Edward Couche, deputy commissary-general.