

and Burlington in Vermont. His estimate of the troops at those places agreed in the main with information secured from other sources, and he reported a general disposition among the inhabitants of both states to refuse to take any part in the war except in case of invasion.*

On August 3, a light canoe arrived at Montreal from Lake Superior by way of the Ottawa river with some officers of the Northwest Fur Company, bearing the welcome and scarcely credible news of the surrender of Mackinac in an official despatch from Captain Roberts with a report that the American troops had been three times repulsed in attempts to cross the River Canard.†

Two days before this, information of the repeal of the obnoxious Orders in Council forwarded in all haste by Mr. Foster from Halifax, had reached Prevost at Quebec, and he immediately directed the Adjutant General to go to the headquarters of General Dearborn to propose a general cessation of hostilities until the decision of his government in this greatly altered situation could be definitely ascertained. Colonel Baynes actually arrived in Albany on the evening of the 8th, his journey from Quebec having occupied only five days, including a detention of some hours at Burlington by direction of the commanding officer, who seemed reluctant to allow him to pass. Dearborn received him most politely and declared that he entirely agreed with the amicable sentiments contained in Prevost's letter and greatly regretted that his instructions would not permit him to conclude an armistice at once, but said he would have no hesitation to give orders to his subordinate officers on the frontiers of New York and Vermont to confine their operations strictly to measures of defence and in the event of his action being disapproved he would immediately notify the Governor and all officers in his command would be instructed to abstain from hostilities until the expiration of four days of twenty-four hours each from the time that notice was given by the party denouncing the agreement. To this proposal Baynes readily assented. Dearborn then observed that although General Hull was nominally under his command, he was actually acting under special instructions from the War Department; but he was willing to write to him recommending a similar course, if at all compatible with his orders. Letters were at once despatched by Baynes to the officers commanding at Kingston, Niagara and Amherstburg by the same messengers who carried Dearborn's orders to the American officers on the frontier, directing them to remain strictly on the defensive on receiving an assurance of a similar intention on the part of the enemy, but warning them at the same time to be vigilant and prepared for any emergency

*Deposition of Baron de Diemar; De Rottenburg to Prevost, July 14.

†Vincent to Baynes, August 4.