

Sans Bruit, where I left only an old man to take care of the house, the fire from his pipe, I imagine, fell in some hay (of which there was a quantity in each room to serve as beds to the Yankees) set it on fire, and before morning, the house was burned to the ground. The out-house, however, still remained, and La Gorgendière's house was then in pretty good repair; but when the siege was raised, it was pitiful to behold the desolation and waste that reigned about all my farms; the barns and stables torn to pieces and burned; the fences torn all to pieces, and though the house at La Gorgendière's was not burned, yet it was torn to pieces. In the inside, the floors torn up and useless, the windows all broken, and the offices entirely destroyed; that, however, must be my future residence,* and I have given orders to have it repaired. That I have suffered in my fences and farms, &c., &c., including hay, carts, and ploughs, and at my mill in wheat and flour stolen, independent of the destruction of my houses and offices, which you can form an idea of, (and which must have cost † you about £2,000) is not less than £100 sterling, for I had just got every thing in order, and was beginning to put myself snug and comfortable, when those plunderers came to disturb me. However, they have not gained much by their expedition, and I flatter myself Government will take compassion on a poor ruined farmer, who has not been inactive in their service. The burning of my house led me into this digression. The day after this happened, my clerk, (Joshua Wolf) trying to save some more work, was taken prisoner by some of the enemy's flying parties, and a few days after, General Montgomery (brother to him, you might remember, at Quebec) and lately a Captain in the 17th Regiment, and your old acquaintance and friend, Colonel Donald Campbell, quarter-master-general, arrived at Holland's house (now the rebel

* La Gorgendière's house stood close to where the residence at Belmont has since been built.

† This sentence can leave no doubt that this letter was addressed to Genl. James Murray, as it is well known Murray had once owned, and had sold, the estates in this neighbourhood to Col. Caldwell.