as opponents of the government.   A rumour soon became current that
he had written a letter, which had not been published from motives of
policy, stating his opinion that it would be imprudent to attempt
to take Montreal with an army of less than thirty thousand men,
and that he would rather resign his command than undertake it.*

During the autumn his troops had suffered considerably from
an epidemic of measles which affected nearly one-third of the regulars
encamped at Plattsburg and Champlain.   One regiment, originally
nine hundred strong, had been reduced to less than two hundred fit
for duty by neglect of proper sanitary measures.   At one time three
hundred and forty men of this unfortunate corps were in the hospital
and a large number reported sick in quarters.   To preserve the health
of the remainder Dearborn attached them to a better disciplined
regiment.   The weather during December became extremely cold
and an epidemic of typhus fever accompanied by pneumonia raged at
all three stations.   Two hundred deaths occurred among sixteen
hundred soldiers quartered at Burlington.   The disease then spread
among the inhabitants of the town of whom seventy-three died within
a month.   On December 10, more than one-third of the three regular
regiments stationed at Plattsburg were reported unfit for duty.   The
mortality at that post and at Greenbush was proportionately as great
as at Burlington, making the total number of deaths about five hun-
dred or practically fifteen per cent of the entire force.†

Yet great as the ravages of disease actually were, they were much
exaggerated by current reports and numerous bitter complaints of
neglect and ill treatment found their way into the Federalist news-
papers.

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*Edward Doyle to Lieut. Colonel Neil McLean, Nov. 29
†Mann, Medical Sketches of the War, pp. 10, 39, 45 and 199.

NOTE.—Plattsburg, December 10, 1812.

				fit for duty,	sick,	
6th	U.S. Infantry,			203,		138.
15th	"	"	"	330,	"	235.
16th.	"	"	"	216,	"	120.
				839		493