

Colonel MacNab tells me that, but "for an unfortunato misapprehension of the orders given by Captain Drew," that that vessel—(she alone passed up) would have been assailed. More pacific than the Colonel, I shall call that misapprehension a most fortunate event; and only regret that some equally kind influence did not preside over the friendly relations of the two countries on the night of the unhappy affair of the *Caroline*.

As to the alleged discharge of arms from Grand Island, on the 13th instant, by a party of New York militia, upon the boat of Lientenant Elmsley, of the Royal Navy, and the correspondence which ensued between Colonel MacNab and Colonel Ayers of the New York militia on the subject, I have no knowledge except through Colonel MacNab. I shall enquire for that correspondence, and refer the whole subject for investigation to the proper State authority now present, only remarking at this time, that Colonel Ayers was not then, nor is yet, taken into the service of the United States, or under my command. I have no doubt that all that is proper will be done in the case, and to that end I shall give my attention.

General Arcularius, who has, I know not how, got into correspondence with Her Majesty's authorities on this frontier, has, I believe, returned to Albany. He held no command on this frontier, either under the State or General Government—being here, as I learn, as the agent of the former, to claim and to get possession of certain arms purloined from the State arsenals; many of these cannon and muskets have already been recovered, and we hope soon to recover the remainder.

I have received a note from Lewiston, stating that a ferry-boat belonging to that place and Queenston, has for some cause or other been detained on your side of the river, to the great inconvenience of our people in that neighbourhood. I make no complaint on the subject, because I am ignorant of all the material circumstances, but will suggest, whether it may not contribute to the restoration of good feelings on both sides, to permit the ferry-boat to resume her usual trips, particularly as I think I can assure all the Navy Island people have advanced up the country, to this place and beyond.

I have the honor, &c. &c.

(Signed)

WINFIELD SCOTT.

P. S.—I have engaged the New England, and a party of troops has just gone down to take possession of her. The hostile expedition can now obtain no boat this side of Erie.

(Signed)

W. S.

Col. C. HUGHES,

*British Army, Commanding, &c. &c. &c.*

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