

HEAD QUARTERS, SACKETT'S HARBOR,

April 29th, 1814.

Dear Sir,

You will, I trust, have rec'd my several letters from Batavia and Williamsville before this comes to hand.

My whole effective force upon this and the Niagara Frontier falls short of 3,500 men. Notwithstanding the high health these Troops at present enjoy, with such limited means would I be justified in again putting to hazard the honor of the army and country by commencing offensive operations? To invest Fort Niagara with a knowledge of the Enemy's force in its neighbourhood and the probability of their having the ascendancy upon Lake Ontario during the investment does not appear to be a measure contemplated in your orders, or one which you would approve were you on the spot to direct. The necessary military stores for the battering train ordered to the Niagara Frontier had not left Albany on the 15th Inst., as I learned by a letter from Colo. Jenkins and no part of it had arrived at Canandaigua, on the 21st when I passed to this post.

My several letters will have explained to you my feelings, sentiments & views with the best information it has been in my power to obtain of the enemies strength and situation. General Scott is on the Niagara Frontier with two companies of the 2nd Artillery, a well found field train and the 9th, 11th, 21st and 25th Regts of Infy. Lieut. Col. Mitchell commands at Oswego with four companies of the 3rd Artillery.

Some recruits are on the march, I understand, and will be here in the course of a few days. The enemies new ships are nearly ready & it is probable they will be out in the course of ten days.

I do not intend to leave this post again until I receive orders from you after you are informed of my being here.

Very respectfully and truly.

I am, dear Sir,

Your humble servt.

JAC. BROWN.

Honble John Armstrong,

Sec'y. of War.