

Correspondence Between Hon. William Dickson Prisoner of War and Gen. Dearborn, 1813

Albany, 14th August, 1813

Sir: —

In behalf of myself and others whose names are hereunto annexed and designated by their different avocations in the District of Niagara, in the Province of Upper Canada, prisoners of war in Albany in the State of New York, I respectfully call your prompt and animated attention in your official character to their case arising out of a policy of war which had not been anticipated by them, I have therefore to state that on the 27th of May last, when General Dearborn's troops entered the town of Niagara and Fort George was evacuated, many inhabitants of Niagara and its vicinity with their families under the existing circumstances and under impressions favorable to the presumed policy of the commander of the forces remained at their homes. Generals Lewis and Boyd gave me assurance of protection in person and property and civilities with them and the officers of the army were mutually exchanged.

Under the temporary protection of the United States a temporary allegiance was due to that government. This I communicated to General Dearborn by letter and he then demanded and received the respective paroles of each. Subsequently I received a letter from him desiring an interview when he wished that I would notify the Magistrates under his control of his wish that they would call upon him and he would state to them his intentions as to the issuing a general order beneficial to the interests of society in their respective precincts. In consequence of which about twelve of these gentlemen waited on General Dearborn when in a courteous address he wished them to exercise their official functions as usual and issued the following general order and sent through Colonel Scott the same in triplicate to be transmitted to the Magistrates which was done accordingly.