

jects of the Queen. This they performed with a zeal, which, if it were the offspring of a goodly conviction, was worthy of all praise; for sundry times they kept starvation from the "Patriot camp" on Navy Island, by very bountiful supplies of rations; they adopted every necessary means to veil their movements from observation, by seizing on all persons, native Americans and all, venturing within their jurisdiction, whom they could in anywise suspect of being spies, and summarily consigned them to the tender mercies of the "Patriots;" they planted guards on the shores of Grand Island, with positive and peremptory orders to fire on any British boat that should dare to venture ever so little from the centre of the channel; which orders were obeyed with the utmost alacrity, and nearly with fatal effect, on one of the bravest men and worthiest subjects of Her Majesty, the Hon. J. Elmsley, who was many times fired on from Grand Island, while in a boat taking soundings, preparatory to a projected descent on Navy Island. The boat was repeatedly struck; but happily the crew escaped without injury; for which thanks were due to Providence, but certainly none to the American officers, Colonel Ira Ayres, or Lieutenant-Colonel Amos Avery; they ordered to be collected and piled together vast heaps of brush, old buildings, stacks of straw and hay, old rails, and other combustible materials, in readiness to be fired the moment any movement towards a descent on Navy Island was apparent on the part of the British, that the "Patriots" might have sufficient light to direct their aim against the "villanous Britishers;" they permitted and partook in a constant round of visiting to and from Navy Island—the mess for both batches of officers being, indifferently, on Grand or Navy Island, where, in tawdry costumes and barbarous paraphernalia, the titles of "General," "Kernel," "Major," "Capting," and "Lootenant" were reciprocally and incessantly bandied, with all the grimace of ignorant and vain-glorious men, who assume inappropriate titles and undeserved honours; they permitted the sentries on guard repeatedly to fire on the Canadian shore, to which amusement they seemed especially prone, and were several times seen in this nefarious and bloody-minded act—their officers being present; they suffered one poor fellow, whom they had taken up as a spy, to be delivered up, on the solicitation of "General" Van Rensselaer and "Major" Chace, and conveyed to Navy Island, where he was purposely exposed to the British fire for the whole residue of the occupation of Navy Island (seven days) by the "Patriots"—many a twenty-four-pounder shot having miraculously missed his head—and when the victim remonstrated against this enormity, "General" Van Rensselaer replied, "D—n that M'Nab, let him kill his own men;" and, finally, when the American militia quitted Grand Island, they conveyed

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