

MILITARY PREPARATIONS IN YORK

40 Mile Creek Feby. 28th 1812

Dear Father I am now on my way home from York where I have been some time and from which place I wrote to you a few days ago. a person who I have met here on his way to Detroit gives me a favourable opportunity of writing to you which I embrace, tho I have little to say. The Legislature have done little this Session as yet and as the house is soon to be dissolved there will not be much done. A new Militia Act has passed: In every Reg^t there are to be two flank companies, to consist of one hundred men each which are to be out six days in every month for the purpose of training, untill they are perfect in their exercise. regular soldiers will be employed to drill them I believe. the house has voted £8000 to the President to be laid out in such manner as he thinks best, for having the Militia trained.

a law respecting travellers on the road meeting has also passed the house. all persons meeting in carriages or sleighs are to give half the road and after December next no one is to drive a Sleigh without Bells. Mr Nichol was committed to Gaol in York by a warrant from the Speaker of the house [of] Commons the day before I left it. this was for writing something to Major Hatton offensive to them in justification of his conduct when wrongfully accused by that House of not having accounted for Public money in his hands. its so lengthy a bussiness that I shall not enter more fully into it, as I should then not be able to give you all the particulars of it, and you will have the whole of it from the Members when they return home, which will be soon.¹

Orders have been received lately from Below to fortify York. I met the Engineer here this evening from Niagara on his way there (probably for that purpose).

¹ For an account of this affair, see Ont. Hist. Soc., *Papers and Records*, XIX, 10 ff.