

this and says he will leave it at Dolson's for you, as also of another letter I gave him to day which I wrote you two days ago, in which I have given you an account of an Affair which took place on the 28th Ult^o at Fort Erie in which we suffered severely: but our Enemy much more, and the business terminated much to our honour, and in such a manner as to convince the American Nation that Canada is not to be conquered in such an easy manner as they imagined. General Smith sent a Summons to the Com^g officer at Fort Erie on that day to surrender that Garrison and it's Dependencies. he then had seven thousand men under his Command at Black Rock and Buffaloe, and we had but fifteen hundred at Fort Erie to oppose him, part of them Indians and part militia but an answer was sent him by Col. Bishopp (a very Galant young Officer just from Spain) that he could not think of doing it as he had sufficient force to repel any force he could bring over. Gen. Smith then had part of his Army embarked in sixty boats, scows &^{ca} ready to come over, and we were ill prepared to receive him, which he knew very well for most of our Cannon had been spiked by a party of his men or our own that morning, when the party from the other side came and surprised our men, in the Batteries, but Gen. Smith had not courage enough notwithstanding all these advantages to attempt to come over, and immediately on receiving the Answer to his Summons disembarked his troops some of his men yanky like wanted to know from him what he meant by this manœuvre, but he would not condescend to tell them & this gave them such offence that three or four shot it's said were fired at him, and he made his escape. one thing is certain that he is gone, but as great a Coward as I think him I hardly think he has left his Army in the shameful manner he is said to have done. he is one of the most violent General's I think that has been op[p]osed to us this War. if poor Hull is hung for Cowardice I think there is not many of their Generals but should share the same fate. General Van Ranselair I think was a good Officer but he was too liberal and too much of a Gentleman to please his Country. he was obliged to give up the Command and General Smith superseded him. I am Sorry to say the