

affords me an opportunity of writing, merely to describe to your [you] our distressing situation, having only two months provisions & very little prospect of obtaining any. tho two Canoes & a boat are now sent to get some at Nautawwaysaugui the season is so far advanced that I dont believe we will be able to get them back. to compleat or crown our situation is that we have a Commandant⁴⁶ who is only fit to drive about Miscreants & knows very little or pretends to know the difference between Gentlemen & Blackguards. Of late he is tormenting all about him with orders counter orders & in short creates discontentment & disgust for my part I am quite sick of my situation & was it not that we expect the Enemy & it being the duty of every Loyal Subject to put up with thing[s] untill a day of retribution arrives & untill that day arrives to be united & every nerve exerted to maintain our ground I would resign my situation. There was a Corps of fencibles raised here consist^g of 50 men & instead of keeping these people to defend our little ground they have been sent away to La Baye with Dickson thats to say the greatest part & the remainder goes for the Pro^s so that we are left with the Veterans & VolunTERS the latter I really dont believe will fight, being in dread of being tucked up if found in arms. The Indians are num[er]ous but in a day or two will be gone to their wintering Ground. to keep them would be madness, having no provisions. I really & sincerely believe that we will be obliged to eat every horse that is on the Island before spring if we are not taken prisoners this autumn Should

⁴⁶ Richard Bullock of the Forty-first Regiment succeeded Captain Charles Roberts as commandant of Mackinac, Sept. 14, 1813. The British army lists disclose that Richard Bullock became a lieutenant in the regiment, Feb. 28, 1796. He served in most of the actions in the Detroit area during the war, being present at Mongaugon, Aug. 9, 1812, and leading the advance guard of Brock's army in the capture of Detroit a few days later. He was with Procter in the latter's Maumee campaign of April-May, 1813, and on his retreat eastward in the autumn, being the only officer of the Forty-first who escaped capture in the Battle of the Thames, Oct. 5, 1813. There is some confusion in the evidence at this point which we have not succeeded in resolving, for Captain Charles Roberts reports that he yielded the command of Fort Mackinac to Bullock on Sept. 14, 1812, and this taken in conjunction with Askin's present letter would seem to preclude the idea that Bullock could have been with Procter's army on the retreat from Detroit to the Thames. A possible explanation may be that there were two officers of the same name in the regiment, whose whereabouts and activities we are unable to distinguish. Richard Bullock, presumably the Mackinac commandant of 1813, was serving as adjutant general of militia at Toronto as late as 1839. Data derived from documents in *Mich. Pio. Colls.*, *passim*; Casselman, *op. cit.*, *passim*; and British army lists.