

directed Captain Parker, of His Majesty's ship *Tenedos*, to receive on board Lieutenant-Colonel Pilkington, Deputy Adjutant-General, who is appointed to command, and a small detachment of artillery and riflemen, and to take under his command the *Bacchante*, *Rifeman*, and *Picton* schooner, and proceed to the attack of that place. He sailed on the 6th instant, and most likely, by this time, the troops are in possession of it. After destroying the defences they are directed to return here.

The inhabitants of several townships east of this have sent deputations here to tender their submission to the British authority: and such of them as could give reasonable security that their arms would be used only for the protection of their persons and property, have been allowed to retain them. This indulgence was absolutely necessary, in order to secure the quiet and unoffending against violence and outrage from their less peaceable neighbours, and for the maintenance of the peace and tranquillity of the country. All property on shore bona fide belonging to the inhabitants of the country in our possession, has been respected. All public property, and all property afloat, has been confiscated.

Sir John Sherbrooke conceiving it to be of importance that the Government should be informed, without delay, of our successes here, has requested that a vessel of war may take his dispatches to England.

I have, in compliance with his wishes, appropriated the *Martin* for that service, and Captain *Senhouse* will take a copy of this letter to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

I have the honour to be, &c.

EDW. GRIFFITH.

To Vice-Admiral the Hon. Sir Alexander  
Cochrane, K. B. &c. &c. &c.

His Majesty's Sloop *Sylph*, off *Bangor*,  
in the *Penobscot*, Sept. 3, 1814.

SIR,  
HAVING received on board the ships named in the margin\* a detachment of twenty men, of the royal artillery, with one five and half-inch howitzer, commanded by Lieutenant *Garston*; a party of eighty marines, commanded by Captain *Carter*, of the *Dragon*; the flank companies of the 29th, 62d, and 98th regiments, under the command of Captains *Gell* and *Caker*, Majors *Riddel*, *Keith*, and *Crosdaile*, and Captain *M'Pherson*; also a rifle company of the 7th battalion of the 60th regiment, commanded by Captain *Ward*; and the whole under the orders of Lieutenant-Colonel *John*, of the 60th regiment; I proceeded, agreeably to your order, with the utmost dispatch up the *Penobscot*. Light variable winds, a most intricate channel, of which we were perfectly ignorant, and thick foggy weather, prevented my arriving off *Frankfort* before two P. M. of the 2d instant. Here Colonel *John* and myself thought it advisable to send a message to the inhabitants; and having received their answer, we pushed on towards *Hamden*, where we received intelligence that the enemy

\* His Majesty's ships *Peruvian* and *Sylph*, *Dragon's* tender, and the *Harmony* transport.

had strongly fortified himself. On our way up several troops were observed on the east side of the river making for *Brewer*; these were driven into the woods without any loss on our side, by a party under the orders of Major *Crosdaile*, and the guns from the boats. The enemy had one killed and several wounded.

At five P. M. of the 2d instant, we arrived off *Ball's Head Cove*, distant three miles from *Hamden*.

Colonel *John* and myself landed on the south side of the Cove, to reconnoitre the ground and obtain intelligence. Having gained the hills, we discovered the enemy's picquets advantageously posted near the highway leading to *Hamden*, on the north side of the Cove.

We immediately determined to land one hundred and fifty men, under Major *Riddell*, to drive in the picquets and take up their ground. This object was obtained by seven o'clock, and notwithstanding every difficulty, the whole of the troops were landed on the north side of the Cove by ten o'clock; but it was found impossible to land the artillery at the same place. The troops bivouaged on the ground taken possession of by Major *Riddell*. It rained incessantly during the night. At day break this morning, the fog cleared away for about a quarter of an hour, which enabled me to reconnoitre the enemy by water; and I found a landing place for the artillery about two thirds of a mile from *Ball's Head*. On this place the troops halted till the artillery were mounted, and by six the whole advanced towards *Hamden*.

The boats under the immediate command of Lieutenant *Pedler*, the First of the *Dragon*, agreeable to a previous arrangement with Colonel *John*, advanced in line with the right flank of the army. The *Peruvian*, *Sylph*, *Dragon's* Tender, and *Harmony*, transport, were kept a little in the rear in reserve.

Our information stated the enemy's force at fourteen hundred men, and he had chosen a most excellent position on a high hill. About a quarter of a mile to the southward of the *Adams* frigate, he had mounted eight eighteen pounders. This fort was calculated to command both the highway by which our troops had to advance, and the river. On a wharf close to the *Adams*, he had mounted fifteen eighteen pounders, which completely commanded the river, which at this place is not above three cables lengths wide, and the land on each side is high and well wooded.

A rocket boat under my immediate direction, but manœvered by Mr. *Ginton*, *Gunter*, and Mr. *Smal*, Midshipman, of the *Dragon*, was advanced about a quarter of a mile a-head of the line of boats.

So soon as the boats got within gun-shot, the enemy opened his fire upon them from the hill and wharf, which was warmly returned. Our rockets were generally well directed, and evidently threw the enemy into confusion. Meantime our troops stormed the hill with the utmost gallantry. Before the boats got within good grape-shot of the wharf battery, the enemy set fire to the *Adams*, and he ran from his guns the moment our troops carried the hill.

I joined the army about ten minutes after this event. Colonel *John* and myself immediately re-