

When we add to all this — the consideration, that those who composed their former Army, are now disbanded — poor & desperate — & that those who have tasted the advantages of privateering would be gratified at the chance of pursuing the same kind of enterprises. — In short when we consider (for the honor of a Republican Government) that the multitude will determine the business — Is there not reason to apprehend that the Americans will slip into the Vortex? The Government of the United States has lately (in behalf of the Owners of British Vessels captured by the French) labelled the prizes in their local Courts of Admiralty. Monsieur Genet has pleaded to the jurisdiction of those Courts, and the Judges of the Great Federal Court are now summoned to try the Question. Genet on this occasion declares openly that if the matter is decided against the French claim, he shall make his appeal to the people. I presume he would not offer such an indignity in a Neutral Country if he had not good encouragement. Privateers have been fitted out, & notwithstanding the proclamation (ge) have sailed from several ports (two from Boston) under commissions from Genet. How a rupture with the Americans will operate upon these provinces, is not easy to conjecture: Accustomed to look at the bright side of every thing that has a bright side to it, I cannot join those who think we are to be immediately ousted from our possessions of Kick. to the Devil Head over Heels. altho' I think our situation is in some degree critical.

Your Excellency's obedient servant
J. Aldridge

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~~but I have quitted but since return~~
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It behoves those who steer to keep a sharp look out — your Excellency's Parquet is among the foremost. From the complexion of the letters which I have lately seen from England, I suspect our Government has too much confidence in the explicit declarations which have been made by the President of the States. It seems to be the opinion in England — that the Faith of America is pledged not to violate the rules of Neutrality, — ^{and that their Government} ~~but they do not~~ ^{is so efficient as to enable them to carry their decrees} into execution. — but in this I fear they reckon without their host.

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A Subaltern's party has been sent to each of the Upper-Posts — The old garrison have been placed for this purpose — ~~of~~ ~~of~~ The venerable Lt. Jenkins commands at Presque Isle — Lt. Chew — a crippled Officer who was very badly wounded at the fourthward command at the Great Falls. The remainder of the Regt are at this place — Lt. John of Piquette.

The Warrant for the Subsistence to June is not yet completed owing to the difficulty of obtaining the stoppage certificates from the several Companies who have issued Provisions to the detachments. When this business is settled I will forward a copy of our Abstract to Capt Aldridge.