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and contiguous situation, by placing the Officers and Men
as much as possible collected and together must be self dependent.

The cause will be obvious to your discernment. For it is
already I fear too late (and of course utterly impracticable)
for the Men especially those with numerous families
(whereof we have a large proportion) to build or prepare
the necessary Shelter and fuel, before the Winter Frost sets in.
Still less is it practicable for them to attempt to cultivate
any kind of Grain or Vegetable, till next Spring & Summer.
By which it is to be apprehended that the Rations graciously
allowed by Government will be insufficient (their fuel and
Shelter out of the Question) to subsist Men Women & Children
during a long and severe Winter, in this intense Climate.
These circumstances will bring forward distress and discouragement,
a discontent will follow, that too probably
will from despair occasion a Separation, and dispersion
frustrating thus the very humane, as well as political
intention of Government in the Object of settling the
disbanded Corps to future useful and patriotic purposes.

I therefore, as the Parent of a Family
(in which endearing Light I have ever considered the
Officers and Men) I am entrusted with the care & Command
of) lament that the reduction of this Battalion did not
take place earlier in this or could not be postponed until
early in the next Season. In presuming to lay these
Circumstances before you and (if you think proper)
appealing to his Excellency the Commander in Chief.
I humbly mean to act the part of a Father to a Corps I
anxiously collected, formed, and disciplined. The peculiar
Circumstances of the deplorable dispersion thereof, almost
from its existence (and upwards of seven years) until
now, under the bountiful and gracious intentions

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of his Majesty almost unavailing to this particular Battalion.

Wherefore otherwise circumstanced a very
valuable Settlement to cultivation and commerce and even
future Military Services (if required) might have been extensively
derived.

I earnestly intreat your Pardon for intruding
this lengthy and digressive Representation. Ideas of Duty to my
Superiors, as well as what I owe to the Men I am bound to protect,
and favor, have suggested it, and I trust when addressed to liberal
Minds, and when the Intentions are at least justifiable (if not
laudable) what ever flows from a benevolent Source will not
offend.

I anticipate (by the earliest opportunity) in this
Letter what I personally should be under the necessity of commu-
nicating to you, on your return to this place, lest the Subject I have
taken leave to represent might induce or suggest any possible
alteration in arrangements, before you quit the frontier, where
you are now so usefully and judiciously employed.

Your directions respecting the Troops expected
from New York are, and shall be punctually attended to.

I have heard no Accounts as yet of Major
Braw of the 5th American Regiment but shall minutely
observe your directions with respecting him.

The most pointed care shall be taken, of
forwarding your dispatch to his Excellency the Commander in
Chief by the very first Opportunity, which I am informed
will soon happen.

I have the Honor to be with Sentiments
of sincere Respect Regard and Personal Esteem

Sir Your most obedient much
Obliged and faithful
Humble Servant

John Small Det.
Command of the Garrison
of Halifax &c &c

Hon to the Brig. Gen. Fox
1828