

Actington House 14<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1823

Sir

Since my arrival in this Ser<sup>t</sup> I have been informed that certain reports are abroad touching your conduct as an Officer of Government during the period of the British invasion of 1814. I owe it first to a sense of that justice w<sup>ch</sup> is due to a long tried Public Servant, to make known such particulars of your conduct, and feelings, during the aforesaid period, as came under my immediate knowledge and observation. If any testimony were necessary to show the zeal, and energy w<sup>th</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> you exerted your best efforts to retrieve the disastrous state of our affairs, & restore order and confidence to the Army, the Government and the Nation, I feel assured that the Gentleman at whose house I am now a guest, and many others alike with him differing from you in political opinions are

prepared to give the fullest evidence in your behalf.

I have it in perfect recollection that on the morning of the 27<sup>th</sup> Augt I met with Col. Munroe near Snells-bridge on the route to Baltimore. The army was in march from Montgomery C.H. where it had reassembled after the battle of Bladensburg: much confusion prevailed in consequence of recent defeat, and the disorganization, & dispersion of the officers of Government. Col. Munroe expressed great anxiety for the immediate return of the President, & High officers of Government to Washington City with a view to the restoration of order, and effective resistance to the enemy. He was pleased to intrust me with an open letter, or billet, <sup>to that effect</sup> ordering my utmost dispatch in search of the President, who I found at the village of Brooke-Ville where he was soon joined by the Col. and both proceeded to Washington. I then proceeded to Montgomery Court House where I found W. Jones (The Secretary of

the Navy, and delivered a summons for an immediate attendance at Washington. Gen. Armstrong had gone to Fredericktown in Maryland, and not considering that my orders reached so far, I returned to his town in the evening. The sentiment common in the army was so decidedly inimical to Gen. Armstrong that I feel assured his person would have been endangered had he attempted to join us.

Having witnessed the zeal, & ability w<sup>th</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> you endeavored to render efficient aid in times of great national calamity, I have to hope that your conduct on that occasion will be relieved from unmerited censure, and that you may enjoy the repose, due to one who has spent the better part of a long life in his Countries service.

I have the honor to be w<sup>th</sup> perfect respect

W. M. O. H. Humble

Wm Robinson

no 23  
Mr Robinson

To his Excellency

James Monroe

President of the

Washington