

Samuel K. Whiting Bangor Dec. 21 1814

Dear Sir,

Since my return I have taken some pains to ascertain the feelings of the People in this quarter, relative to an attack upon Castine, in case an expedition is got up — more particularly with those who now belong to the Militia — and I find that the general sentiment is in favour of a force being raised, either to regain our conquered territory, or at least, sufficient to check the very extensive intercourse now carried on, thro' the medium of Castine — all concur in this wish, except a few dastardly Tories, and those engaged in this illicit traffic — The People on the River, begin to be convinced that the occupation of Castine by the Enemy is not the making of their fortunes, as they had fondly anticipated — and would rejoice to see them expelled — the current, is now setting strongly in favour of an expedition against Castine — In conversation with a number of the Officers belonging to Gen^l Cobb's Division, they state that a 1000. men might be calculated upon, in case they were legally called ^{out} upon — Say, in the way contemplated by the act of Congress '95 — my own opinion is, that 500. would be the most that could with confident certainty be relied on — an attack however, upon Castine, or an expedition into their Provinces, would be very popular, and for either of these objects, I think there would be no difficulty in getting a sufficient number — A regular force once stationed on the River, and we should have no trouble in arousing the people, in this and the neighbouring Towns — gladly would they embrace the first favourable opportunity, to retrieve their degraded and disgraced condition — if ample funds could be afforded I

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think there would be no difficulty in obtaining men - - - I have taken steps, to learn the actual situation of the Enemy at Castine, forces, batteries are few I find that they are much alarmed, and are cautious who they admit into the Town - - the moment they heard the rumour of a force coming against them; two Vessels were dispatched with secrecy - They do not feel secure - The strong fortification or or you may rely upon it, is much exaggerated - There is at this time, a large amount of specie at Castine, and at Buckstown - The vaults of the old Penobscot Bank, are better filled than they ever were before - This Story I have from a correct source - there are a number of English merchants establishing themselves ~~in that place~~ and intend doing business on an extensive Scale - The Stores are full of British goods and they feel quite Secure under the wing, of John Bull - - - if a secret expedition could be got up it would tell well, if plunder was the order of the day -

I am anxious to know what course will be adopted - what kind of force is to be relied on, whether the Militia or volunteers - on the East Side of the River I think more troops could be raised by calling regularly on the Officers to order out their men - on the West Side the Volunteer system would be most popular - I shall in the course of a few days get a correct list of all such Officers as can be relied on, and the number of men they can turn out - even if the Gov^r. of this Commonwealth does not give his aid or sanction - - - I shall probably pass thro' Bath in the course of 3 weeks - and shall then be able to tell more than it will be prudent to put on paper, especially if sent by mail - There is no movement however trifling, but what is immediately reported to Castine - news from Boston gets there much earlier, and more regular than at this place -

I hope the effort of the general Gov^r will not be defeated for want of means - I anticipate no assistance from Mass.^s - - - and if no

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efficient measures can be adopted— the crisis has arrived when the District of Maine ought to Legislate for herself— release from the thralldom of Boston influence, we would not suffer this Eastern Section of the Country to sink into insignificance— we would not suffer one third of our territory to be controlled by British laws— if we can get no assistance let us make an effort to take care of ourselves—

I hope to hear good tidings from your Boston excursion— may Success attend you— My respects to M^{rs} King and believe me to be yours most Respectfully
Sam^l H. Whiting

Dec^r 22. In an excursion to Hampden, Orrington, St N[?] I am confirmed in the belief that the People will volunteer with much spirit— there are not more than from 150, to 200 soldiers that have been paroled—

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Genl William King

Bath

Jos^h Hook Esq^u