

this letter was written in November is that he says in it: "I have *this day* signified "to Mr. Pitt that he may dispose of my slight carcass as he pleases." The letter to Pitt of 22nd November stated: "I have no objections to serving in America, and "particularly on the River St. Lawrence, if any operations are to be carried on there." (Chatham Correspondence quoted in Wright's life of Wolfe, p. 164.) As the letter of 22nd November to Pitt is the only one about that date, so far as appears, expressing willingness to undertake the labour of the expedition, it is probable, at least, if not positive, that it was the letter referred to in that to Lieutenant Colonel Rickson, which contains, as already noticed and so far as can be ascertained, the only reference made to his remaining on this side of the Atlantic after the capture of Louisbourg, but does not serve to explain the tone of irritation in which the letter that follows is written. To whom it was written is not on the letter:

MY LORD,—Since my arrival in America, I have had the honour to receive two letters from your Lordship, one of an old date concerning my stay in this country, in answer to which, I shall only say, that the Marshal told me, I was to return at the end of the campaign, and as General Amherst had no other commands than to send me to winter at Halifax under the orders of an officer, who was but a few months before put over my head, I thought it was much better to get into the way of service and out of the way of being insulted; and as the style of your Lordship's letter is pretty strong, I must take the liberty to inform you, that though I should have been very glad to have gone with G. Amherst to join the army upon the Lakes and offered my services immediately after the reduction of Louisbourg, to carry a reinforcement to Mr. Abercrombie, if Quebec was not to be attacked; yet rather than receive orders in the government of an officer younger than myself (though a very worthy man) I should certainly have desired leave to resign my commission; for as I neither ask nor expect any favour, so I never intend to submit to any ill usage whatsoever. Your Lordship's letter with the cartel between His Majesty and the French King is come to my hands. Brig. Gen. Murray and Colonel Howe having represented to me, that an ensign of Amherst's regiment and two of Anstruther's had not joined their corps since their commissions were out, and that General Amherst's intentions were to supersede these officers, and put others in their room more disposed to serve, I have therefore taken upon me to appoint officers to these commissions in conformity to the General's intentions and for the good of his Majesty's service, waiting, however, till within a few days of our sailing for the arrival of these gentlemen.

There are no less than 100 invalids absolutely unfit for service in this corps of troops (47 of Fraser's regiment), 60 are to go home in the "Nightingale" and 40 in a cartel ship appointed by the Admiral to carry prisoners to France. I have filled up the vacancies in these regiments and enclose my report of it.

I have, &c.,

JAM. WOLFE.

NEPTUNE AT SEA,
6th June, 1759.

Trans-Atlantic steam navigation is of comparatively recent origin. The Cunard line, which was established in 1839, began to run fortnightly to Halifax and Boston in 1846. Previous to that time letters could not be sent from Canada to Great Britain through the United States, except by employing an agent in that country. It was not till 1849 that an arrangement was entered into with the United States for a free exchange of mails. No steps were taken to secure steam communication with the St. Lawrence until 1852, when an abortive attempt was made to obtain a line of steamers. In 1853, the firm of McKean, McLarty & Co., of Liverpool, took