

you the Situation of this province, for I do assure your that it never entered my mind to wait for an official communication of your appointment before I shall solicit to be honoured with your commands.

I am, sir, in a similar situation with you in respect to Intelligence. I never received any communication from Mr. Erskine but once, which was immediately after the affair of the "Chesapeake," containing only general observations respecting the displeasure of the Americans at that event, and I cannot certainly agree with your Excellency, that in such a state of uncertainty we ought to be prepared for Hostility if even it should take place.

The extent of this Province and its slender Population afford but too good grounds for the plan that is specified in His Majesty's instructions.

To defend this Province from any partial or sudden incursion may be practicable, beyond that your observations are but too well founded that it would be in vain. However convinced I am in my own mind of this truth, yet it must be carefully concealed from Persons of almost every description in this colony, for there are few People here that would act with Energy were it not for the purpose of defending the Lands which they actually possess.

I do myself the honour of enclosing for your Excellency's information a Return of the Militia, the fourth part of which I directed to be Ballotted for have voluntarily offered their Services.

I think I may venture to state that the generality of the Inhabitants from Kingston to the Borders of the lower province may be depended upon, but I cannot venture, from the Industry that has been used by certain characters now and lately in this Province, to assert that the Inhabitants about the Seat of this Government, Niagara and Long Point are equally to be relied on. I have also to observe that excepting the Inhabitants of Glengarry and those Persons who have served in the American war and their Descendants, which form a considerable body of men, the residue of the Inhabitants of this colony consist chiefly of Persons who have emigrated from the States of America and, of consequence, retain those ideas of equality and insubordination, much to the prejudice of this government, so prevalent in that country.

I have before mentioned that the Militia of this Province can only be expected to resist partial Incursions and on that account, if it meets with your approbation, it must be my endeavour to place them, as much as possible, at such points as are most susceptible of a sudden attack from an Enemy.

If I might presume to offer an opinion, I think that the plan which your Excellency suggests of harassing an Enemy, should an attempt be made to invest Quebec, would be productive of the most salutary effect, indeed the Provincial Force to be employed, aided by the Indians, point out this mode of warfare as most likely to succeed in distressing an Enemy.

I shall, whatever operations may take place, never lose sight of Quebec, for which purpose I shall endeavour to reserve as much as possible the Militia of Glengarry, Stormont, Prescott and Dundas, to act towards Lower Canada, in such a manner as you may be pleased to point out.

The Americans have not any other armed vessels on the Lakes and I conceive little doubt can be entertained of our retaining the superiority, at least for some time. It may be a subject worthy of your Excellency's consideration whether the Brig the "Duke of Kent" should be repaired and orders given to employ an additional number of seamen, which I fear from the difficulty already experienced cannot be effected without increasing the wages.

With respect to Provisions, we have in this Province a quantity of Flour, Fresh Beef and fresh Pork. Ammunition is only to be found in the King's stores. As to money we must look to Great Britain, the whole Revenue of this Province has as yet not much exceeded Three Thousand pounds a year, and of these by much the greater part is already appropriated to colonial purposes.

It is of much importance to keep up the appearance of defending Amherstburg, on account of the confidence it would inspire the Indians with and although I do