

Brethren,

General Shirley also desires me to acquaint you, that he is to have a great army this ensuing spring for the defence of your country, and the recovery of such parts of it as have been encroached upon by the French; and that in the mean time his majesty's troops in the province of New York, shall be held in readiness to defend you against any attempts the French may make before the opening of the campaign.

A belt.

Brethren,

On my return from New York, I received your kind message and information of the design of the French attacking his majesty's garrison at Oswego: I am extremely obliged to you for your friendly notice, which I immediately acquainted general Shirley and governor Hardy with, by express from Albany, who by their answers to me, are also greatly pleased with you, for the concern you shew for our mutual safety; and I expect you will not only continue your vigilance, but will also be ready (like unalterable friends and brethren) to use the ax which I gave you last summer, in conjunction with his majesty's troops, whenever called upon, either at Oswego, or any where else they may be employed, to the utmost of your power, as it is his majesty's intention to stand by you, and protect you, as well as his own subjects, against the insults or attempts of any enemy whatever. Believe me, Brethren, this is the proper time to convince your Father, the great King of England, and your Brethren, of your sincerity and attachment to their interest, by your acting vigorously with his troops, which I most heartily advise you to do,