

1781.

duplicity of Colonel Rogers has been very unworthy. The inefficiency of the officers recommended by Rogers. He had promised to raise men in a few months and had 700 men ready at Penobscot. Sends note of money advanced to him. Page 327

August 2,
New York.

Clinton to Haldimand. Riedesel, with officers and men, has sailed. Knyphausen wishes to have his men back; they will be replaced by others. The French and rebels only wait for a reinforcement from the West Indies to attack New York. The importance, therefore, of a diversion on the frontiers and the speedy decision of Vermont in our favour. The forces opposed to him (Clinton) in this quarter number 4,000 French and 7,000 rebels; the latter do not increase very fast, though the attack on New York is a favourite object. 331

August 2,
Quebec.

Haldimand to Clinton. The distressing difficulty of communication when serious attacks are threatened against New York and this Province. Sends this by a small fast-sailing vessel in charge of a faithful man who will sink it if necessary. It will give all the transactions with Vermont, with the proceedings in papers marked 1 to 17. Vermont is forming magazines and raising men, avowedly to defend themselves against any power that may invade it. The people acknowledge a preference for Congress, provided they are admitted as a fourteenth state. This must take place when Vermont has strength to assert it, for nothing can be done against this Province, without the help or assent of Vermont, nor by that route against the Colonies, the obstacles being the same. If a favourable termination for Great Britain is pointed at, Vermont will become loyal and offer assistance not needed, but if the contrary, she will declare for Congress. In six months she will be a respectable ally for either side. Had pressed for a decision which appeared to have the desired effect on Ira Allen. Sends report of what took place on his return to Vermont. Flag arrived with a letter from Ira Allen fraught with much sincerity or much duplicity; bad as he may be he could not stand the test of the interview, so did not come. Will hear what Fay proposes. (For these documents, &c., see B. 175, p. 88, &c.) Fears that Ensign Drummond has been wrecked on Magdalen Island and drowned, and has heard that Ensign Prentice was cast away. Report received that a body of French and Continentals had been routed by him (Clinton) on White Plains. The want of provisions is an obstacle to the defence of this Province or to make any offensive movement in force. Gives details of the low state of provisions and his fears for the expected victuallers. 333

August 2,
Quebec.

Same to the same (No. 6). Has not sent the last dispatch. The danger of granting the delay asked for by the Vermonters, as it is only for the purpose of strengthening themselves to act with Congress. They are forming magazines and raising men, and in a few months they will become an important ally or a formidable enemy. To carry on the deception Ethan has quitted the service, but Ira Allen has gone as commissioner to Congress, and did not come with the flag to avoid the test of a discovery. An intercepted letter from Schuyler to Washington has just been sent in. It congratulates him on the confirmation of the report that a detachment of De Grasse's fleet will join that of De Touche to attack Quebec, and agreeing that a demonstration should be made against New York and that Rochambeau should not march till the fleet had left Boston; he was to penetrate by Cohos. The letter appears to have been conveyed by design, to prevent a diversion in favour of New York, where he conceives the blow is levelled. His distress for want of