

I am well aware that a winter expedition is attended with more difficulties than will offer to a superficial observer, but I am very far from thinking them insurmountable provided that measures are pursued without delay and the proper officers exert themselves in the execution of the orders they receive. Congress may, perhaps, determine on such an expedition. I shall therefore take the liberty to say if they do, that the men who go on this service should, besides their ordinary under clothes, be provided each with a good woollen Cap and a short but good blanket, coat, with a cape to turn over the caps to prevent the snow falling on the neck ; each two chequered woollen shirts ; a woollen pair of breeches ; two pair of good woollen stockings ; a pair of Indian leggins so long as to come up to the crotch ; a pair of good Indian shoes and a pair of English shoes ; with a pair of good warm socks and a pair of stout mittens ; and not to be suffered to carry any more clothing. Each man should also have a pair creepers ; a tinder box or horn, steel flints and a bundle of matches to every ten men. One thousand pair of snow shoes should also be provided ; 100 pair of skates ; 100 hand machines for firing vessles or buildings ; 2000 musket wooden cartridges ; Canes with spikes to be filled with a combustible composition to be shot into vessels or buildings. Each man to be also furnished with a powder horn and bullet pouch. Two thousand spare stands of arms should also be carried on to furnish such Canadians as might be willing to engage with us. All these articles should be collected at Albany to be delivered to the troops immediately before marching. One thousand men should be sent without delay to Skenesborough by the way of Fort Anne, from whence they should take down in rafts the boards that remain at the saw mill, near that place, none of which have been destroyed by the enemy. Sixteen thousand are left there, a number sufficient, not only to cover the men comfortably but also the provisions, of which a quantity sufficient for five thousand