

his reception in the harbour of New York that he wrote these words to the British government: "I have great reason to expect an enormous body of the inhabitants to join the army from the provinces of York, the Jerseys and Connecticut, who, in this time of universal oppression, only wait for opportunities to give proofs of their loyalty and zeal for government. Sixty men came over two days ago with a few arms from the neighbourhood of Shrewsbury, in Jersey, who were desirous to serve, and I understand there are five hundred more in that quarter ready to follow their example."

General Howe soon after this began to appoint recruiting officers in different parts of New Jersey and to organize detachments of Provincials as fast as they presented themselves for service in the army. Mr. Cortlandt Skinner, whose devotion to the interests of the British king before the war had made him a prominent man in New Jersey, was selected as the proper officer to organize and to command the men who were anxious to enroll themselves under the standard of Great Britain. He was commissioned at first a Colonel, and afterwards a Brigadier-General, with authority to raise five battalions to consist of two thousand and five hundred soldiers, "under command of gentlemen of the country nominated by himself." He established his headquarters at the organization of the corps on Staten Island, in New York harbour, and this place soon became the refuge for all tories of New York and New Jersey, as well as for deserters from the *Rebel* army. General Skinner himself seems to have been stationed on Staten Island and in New York city during most of the war, and it is very seldom that we meet him even with his soldiers in any other part of the contiguous