

1781.

- provisions. (For intercepted letter see B. 134, p. 79. It is dated "Albany, 15th July, 1781.") Page 339
- September 13, Haldimand to Clinton (No. 7). Vermont Assembly is to meet
Quebec. on the 1st of October. Will then send a large detachment to take post and remain at Crown Point; strong parties will also appear on the Mohawk River. Has hopes that these steps will produce a favourable effect in the affairs of Vermont. The English and Cork fleets, and troops with Riedesel have arrived. 341
- September 24, The same to the same (No. 8). The agents for Vermont affairs are
Quebec. in conference with Ira Allen and Major Fay at Skenesborough. A letter from these two says that they have instructions from the Governor in writing to negotiate for a change of government and have all the papers on the late proceedings of the Vermont agents with Congress. They press for a meeting. It is certain that a resolution has passed in Congress admitting Vermont as a separate state, provided the new territories are relinquished. This is in agitation and success with them, if they are inclined to join, will turn on confirming to them those territories. Is inclined to grant this, but not without his (Clinton's) concurrence. The necessity of dispatch; the delicacy in handling the troops on the frontiers of Vermont. Orders have been given to ravage the Mohawk country. "Considering the uniformity of Ira Allen's conduct, he must be the most accomplished villain living, if he means to deceive us." 342
- September 25, Statement (in French), by Riedesel, of Sir Henry Clinton's ideas
Quebec. of a diversion which might be effected by sending from Canada a force of 2,000 men by way of Niagara, Lake Erie and Presqu'Isle, towards Fort Pitt, the Ohio, the Alleghany Mountains and as far as the settlements on the back of Pennsylvania and Virginia, so as to facilitate his expedition from the upper part of Chesapeake Bay. The arrangements are given in detail. 344
- September 27, Haldimand to Clinton. The letter accompanying this was pre-
Quebec. pared on the 2nd ult. (p. 333), this being a continuation. The statement on behalf of Vermont, as to the difficulty of a sudden revolution, deserves some credit, but their obscure and mysterious conduct excites suspicion. Hopes to give the result of the interview before this letter is sent. Will post a strong force on the frontier when the Assembly of Vermont meets on the 1st of October, and has directed strong parties to be sent from Niagara to the Mohawk and frontiers of Pennsylvania. If these operations do not produce the effect hoped for on Vermont, they will alarm and distress the enemy by ravaging the frontiers and diminishing their supplies. They will also afford loyalists an opportunity to escape from the oppression they labour under. Asks that his transactions may be communicated to General Robertson. 371
- September 28, Same to the same. The fate of Ensign Drummond confirmed;
Quebec. there are accounts of the safety of Ensign Prentice, though he was shipwrecked. For Vermont, refers to previous letters. The two large victuallers not arrived; the plentiful supply lately received makes this of less consequence. Has sent back Knyphausen's troops; hopes that they will be suitably replaced. 349
- September 29, Same to the same. Objections given, in detail, to Sir Henry
Quebec. Clinton's proposals for a diversion, as conveyed by Riedesel (p. 344). The difficulties of the route, &c, are pointed out; the strength of Fort Pitt and the danger of relying on the Indians, &c. 351
- P.S.—Gives an account of a stroke made by Joseph Brant on the Ohio, and that it was hoped a large body of Indians would fall on Clark's main body. The war in that part of the country, on the