

1779.

posts superior to any force they can bring, but they may penetrate by small parties, into the heart of the country, where there is a visible alteration since the beginning of hostilities with France, and a set of men are carrying on correspondence with the rebels, receiving D'Estaing's proclamation and other papers; he has not yet been able to trace the correspondence or to get evidence against suspected persons. The only security is to have encampments to defend the passes into the country, and to prevent the enemy from obtaining provisions. The deficiency of troops; only 1,600 regulars from Lake Ontario downward, who are so divided that he could not assemble more than 1,000 effective men. Character of the emigrants, Sir John Johnson's corps, &c. Necessity for reinforcements owing to the desertion of the German troops, who have imbibed the principles of the inhabitants; hopes that 2,000 regulars are now on their passage for Quebec. Necessity for a supply of provisions, rum, &c. Has had no recent intelligence from Europe; will attempt to form a battalion or two of Canadian militia, and to disarm the disaffected parishes. Regrets this was not done in 1776, as it would then have been easy; it would now be difficult, and only to be done with great caution. Tuscaroras and Oneidas have lately been at Oswegatchie, killed two soldiers of the garrison and taken four prisoners. Is afraid the vessel he sent the last dispatches with has been taken and Gordon killed. Advices from the Mohawk, &c., agree that bateaux are building and troops assembling, a proportion of these being French. Does not believe the latter statement, but will take every precaution. No word from Niagara or Detroit; believes they are safe, but doubts the safety of Michilimakinak. DePeyster is a good soldier, and will do all that he can to defend the post. Most of the Indians who received provisions are at Niagara. The whole of the Mohawk and Ochquaga villages have been burned.

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May 29,  
Quebec.

Haldimand to Clinton. Sends dispatches by Louis Foy, nephew to the late Captain Foy, his secretary. Recommends him for employment.

58

July 4,  
London.

Sir W. Howe to Haldimand. Asking for leave of absence to Ensign Ralph Gore of the 34th Regiment.

59

July 16,  
New York.

Major General Pattison to Haldimand. Certificate that the "Hawke" has cleared with a cargo to Quebec, to return to New York with grain, &c.

60

July 19,  
Quebec.

Haldimand to Clinton. Arrival of two large ships with provisions. Has no account of the merchant fleet, except that it was to sail very late, nor does he know what troops are to come from Britain to this Province. The arrival of the two ships has reduced the price of grain and put the inhabitants in a better disposition.

61

July 19,  
Quebec.

Same to the same. The want of provisions prevented him from taking possession of Oswego, or of assembling the troops; he is pushing forward the supply just received. The laborious transport prevents him still from attempting Oswego this season; the critical situation of affairs in the upper country as shown by Butler's letters; reinforcements are sent forward, and more will go when provisions can be supplied. The exertions of the men at the fortifications have made them stronger than the enemy can expect; his greatest fear is about provisions, the Indian consumption is so enormous. Proposes to send expeditions to Lake Champlain and Oswego to alarm the country and to favour Clinton's expeditions. Repeats that the arrival of the fleet has had a good effect on the inhabitants, who expected a French fleet; has no fears this year. Renews his request