

1779.
February 24,
New York.

Unsigned dispatch; of the rebels, building bateaux and vessels at Stillwater, intending to attack the Province of Quebec, being invited to do this by two of its principal inhabitants. Page 38

March 2,
Quebec.

Haldimand to Clinton. Four vessels under the convoy of the "Nancy," in September last, are taken or are missing; the "Nancy" put into Halifax from stress of weather, where the troops were quartered. Has written to Brigadier Maclean to have them forwarded. Will send vessels to Halifax in spring. Reports of enemy's movements about Skenesborough; Lake Champlain broken up; forage and cattle destroyed, so that the enemy can make no considerable attempt on that side. Little intelligence has been received from the upper posts, but all seems well there. 39

March 15,
New York.

Clinton to Haldimand. The artificers to build at Stillwater have been recalled and the expedition to Canada apparently given up. 41

March 15.

Report by John André, aide-de-camp, of the favourable situation in Georgia; the expedition to Canada will not take place; D'Estaing is blocked up, and the succours he expects from France followed by a much superior naval force. The rebels have reports of D'Estaing's own ship being taken; their credit very low and their counsels distracted. 42

April 13,
New York.

Clinton to Haldimand. Has taken every opportunity to communicate; sends intelligence of news lately received of the enemy to the westward. If he himself can act decidedly it will not be from his own force but from the want of it in the enemy. Washington has not yet completed the continental troops, but he may take posts in this strong country that cannot be attacked; cannot attempt, till reinforced, to force him to action. Will send an expedition to counteract that against Detroit. 43

April 13,
New York.

Same to the same. Hopes that the successes in Georgia will enable him to redeem the army of convention; commissioners are at Amboy for that purpose. Brigadier Maclean ordered to erect a fort on Penobscot River. The officers belonging to corps in Canada shall be sent by the first opportunity. The rebels find much difficulty in raising an army this year, owing to the depreciation of their money; they may assemble a numerous militia should an important stroke offer. Sends newspapers. Reported success of the British over the French fleet in the West Indies, and capture of seven French ships. 45

April 21
New York.

Same to Butler and Haldimand. The rebels to attack Detroit this spring making a feint on the Susquehanna to draw off Butler and the Indians. 47

May 26,
Quebec.

Haldimand to Clinton. Sends another copy of his proposed cypher with a few alterations. 48

May 26,
Quebec.

Same to the same. The messenger sent is an honest man and to be trusted. The exertions to take post at Oswego defeated by Hamilton's expedition to Vincennes and the immense consumption of provisions by the Indians; hopes to establish a post at Oswego during the summer, as the most effectual means of securing the fidelity of the Indians; sends proclamations spread among them by Lafayette and D'Estaing; the bad effect these have had on the chiefs. Brehm reports that Hamilton had made such promises to the Indians that their families have deserted their habitations and cultivation is neglected, so that they must starve if not supplied with twice the quantity of provisions given them last year. The English flour has not arrived, and Canadian flour will not keep during transport to these distant posts (Niagara, &c.). Rebels building bateaux at Stillwater, the naval force on Lake Champlain, and the