

turn I was pitched upon for the command of the troops destined to make a junction with Sir William Howe from Canada.

I had now sustained the severe private misfortune which I had so long dreaded. Employment in the field was the best relief that could be offered to affliction; and for the first time since the war I was earnest to go to America.

I have slightly touched this progress of my late service, to shew that the situation in which I was placed in the year 1777, was not one of private favour, court intrigue, or personal ambition, but naturally devolving to me from occurrences and from general opinion. Whether that opinion was justly founded, this is not the place to discuss. An account of the campaign, in the part where I commanded, will forthwith be submitted to the public in a detail of the facts proved before Parliament, and in other authentic documents. In the mean time let me be permitted to say, that however freely cavillers and speculatists may have treated my military conduct, none have disputed the principle and zeal which actuated my endeavours.

With those claims, Gentlemen, to the countenance and good-will at least of government, I proceed to relate the treatment I received.

I had expressed, in my private letter from Albany to the Secretary of State, my “ confidence in the justice of the King and his “ Councils to support the General they had “ thought