

Extract of a Letter from Lieutenant General Burgoyne, to Sir Guy Carleton, dated Head-Quarters, at Skenesborough House, 11th July, 1777.

I REQUEST your Excellency to take into consideration the expediency of supplying from Canada, a garrison for Ticonderoga.

My communication will widen so much as I proceed, the drain upon the army for posts will be so considerable, not to speak of detachments and safe-guards to protect and to awe the country, that if that first diminution is not replaced, my effective strength may become inadequate to the services intended. My present intelligence is that Putnam is collecting an army to oppose me at Saratoga. Fort Edward is also talked of to sustain a siege.

Your excellency will, I am sure, agree with me that Ticonderoga, or some other fortified post on the South part of Lake Champlain, ought to be considered on the frontiers of the province of Canada. I am aware of the difficulties that arise from the manner in which the Secretary of State's orders are penned; but I submit to your Excellency, whether, under the principle laid down in the beginning of the order, and afterwards repeated, *that 3000 men were held sufficient for the defence of that province*, you would not be justified in sparing for the purpose of this garrison, the overplus of the 3000 that may remain after compleating my army.

And notwithstanding the corps for the Canada service are precisely named by the Secretary of State, I would further submit whether, upon my pressing requisition, the garrison might not justifiably be furnished by detachment, even though there was no overplus, under the following words of the order; *after having secured to him, (Lieutenant General Burgoyne) every assistance which it is in your power to afford and procure*. Your Excellency's zeal for the service and favour towards me, will be better interpreters for the latitude I propose, than any thing I can further suggest; my present purpose, Sir, is to get a sufficient number of gun-boats upon the Lake George to scour that lake as expeditiously as possible, to support them with a proper force to attack Fort George on that side, while with the main of the army as soon as refreshed and supplied, I attack Fort Edward from hence, and thereby cut off the communication from Albany to Fort George, and consequently prevent the succour or retreat of that garrison.

Extract of a Letter from Lieutenant General Burgoyne, to Sir Guy Carleton, Head-Quarters, near Fort Anne, July 29th 1777.

THE construction your excellency puts upon the orders of the Secretary of State, is too full and decisive for me to presume to trouble you further upon the subject of a garrison for Ticonderoga from Canada, I must do as well as I can, but I am sure your Excellency, as a soldier, will think my situation a little difficult. A breach into my communication must either ruin my army entirely, or oblige me to return in force to restore, which might be the loss of the campaign. To prevent a breach, Ticonderoga and Fort George must be in very respectable strength, and I must besides have posts at Fort Edward and other carrying-places. These drains added to common accidents and losses of service, will necessarily render me very inferior in
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